



Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished Page 15

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## \$10 toilet paper? Coronavirus gouging complaints surge in U.S.

By REESE DUNKLIN and JUSTIN PRITCHARD  
Associated Press

One store advertised hand sanitizer at \$60 a bottle. Another was accused of hawking it at \$1 a squirt. Chain stores were accused of selling \$26 thermometers and face masks at the "everyday low price" of \$39.95 a pair, while a convenience store offered toilet paper at \$10 a roll next to a sign reading: "This is not a joke."

Across a country where lines are long, some shelves are empty and patience thin, authorities are receiving a surge of reports about people trying to cash in on the coronavirus crisis with outrageous prices, phony cures and other scams.

Continued on next page



This combination of March 11, 2020 photos made by investigators with the Michigan Attorney General's Office shows a \$4.47 shelf price sticker for a gallon of Clorox bleach and \$8.99 on a price scanner for the same item at a Menards store in Jackson, Mich.

Associated Press



The best roasted chicken in Aruba

1 half Roasted chicken + Salad & fries x \$10,00 (USD Dollars)  
\*All charges included





**TAKE OUT**

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com - Temporarily closed.  
Info: +297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - Orders to tel: +297 592 5699 offer from 12 noon to 5 pm

## Craving a Good Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas, Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire... Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

It's time for **El Gaucho** Steak

**Closed on Sundays**

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677  
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm



**Only 6 Luxury Villas**  
In the **Best** Location on **Eagle Beach**  
**Azure Beach Residences**

Visit our sales office at Azure Beach Residences.  
**+297 5946395** www.azure-aruba.com





**This March 10, 2020 photo made by an investigator with the Michigan Attorney General's Office shows gallons of Clorox bleach on display priced at \$8.99 each at a Menards store in Jackson, Mich. A price sticker on an empty shelf elsewhere in the store listed it as \$4.47.**

**Associated Press**

An Associated Press survey of state attorneys general or consumer protection agencies across the country found the number exceeded 5,000, with hundreds more coming in every day.

"Greed is a powerful motivator for some people," said Josh Stein, the attorney general of North Carolina, where the number of reports jumped from 72 to 131 in a day. "It is inexcusable to prey on people in a vulnerable time to make a quick buck."

AP's survey is the most comprehensive look so far at the emerging problem. In all, 40 states responded with numbers that included both tips and formally filed complaints against everything from individuals and mom-and-pop stores to big-box retailers. The count is certainly low because it only includes cases in which someone went online or called to register a grievance.

Many others merely went to the court of social media to vent their outrage.

"STOP SHOPPING HERE!!" one woman blared on Facebook next to cell-phone photos of a Southern California grocery charging \$6.98 for a gallon of milk and \$14.99 for cheddar cheese. "There are families out there who really need groceries and they're overcharging."

Beyond AP's state count, efforts to prevent exploitation are also being carried out by individual cities, such as New York, which alone has received more than 1,000 complaints, issued 550 violations and imposed \$275,000 in fines for gouging, including one case in which a store was accused of selling bottles of Purell at \$79 each. Among the items the city is preventing stores from jacking up the prices on: aloe vera and rubbing alcohol, the ingredients that can be combined to make hand sanitizer.

States are still checking out many of the claims. While some have gone to court against sellers, others have determined cases didn't meet their legal standard for price-gouging, which generally involves an increase of more than 10 percent. About 10 states have no such law.

States typically try to resolve reports not by pursuing fines or criminal charges but by confronting the retailer, which typically apologizes and lowers the price. In Maine, investigators had photographic evidence from a shopper to back up the convenience store sale of the \$10 rolls of toilet paper. In Tennessee, where state lawyers forced two brothers to stop selling the more than 17,000 bottles of hand sanitizer they had hoarded, investigators checked out a tip that a store was charging \$1 for a squirt of sanitizer.

There were reports of overpriced rice in Wisconsin

and potatoes in Idaho. In Connecticut, a seller was reportedly hawking medical masks at more than 10 times the normal value. One couple in Ohio reported that a thermometer they bought for \$8 at a national chain store cost \$26 two days later.

"This is so wrong at a time of crisis," the wife wrote in her report about the thermometer. "Contact them and tell them they can't do this." Some rural states reported no complaints. A small slice of reports involved not high prices but false claims that products or services can test for or even cure the virus, which in most people causes only mild or moderate symptoms but can be deadly for some. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved no treatments or vaccines, and the National Institutes of Health says no scientific evidence exists to suggest alternative remedies can prevent or cure the illness.

That hasn't stopped the likes of televangelist Jim Bakker pushing treatments with tiny silver particles and conspiracy theorist and Infowars host Alex Jones advertising toothpastes, creams and other products on his radio show. Both were targets last week of cease-and-desist letters from New York's attorney general, and the federal government has sent warning letters to seven companies over false claims.

Pennsylvania, which with more than 1,200 reports had the most in the nation, created an email address dedicated to complaints. Oregon launched a price-gouging hotline this week. Oklahoma's attorney general is shifting agents to its consumer protection unit. In Michigan, where reports spiked from 363 on Tuesday morning to 572 by Wednesday afternoon, Attorney General Dana Nessel's office issued cease-and-desist letters instructing businesses and online sellers to correct their pricing or risk further action.

One went to an Ann Arbor cleaning store that used its Twitter account to advertise Purell at prices that soared from \$7.50 for one large bottle to \$60 in mere

days. After customer backlash, the retailer called the tweeted advertisement a "false post" and lowered the prices.

Another warning letter went to the home improvement chain Menards. Some of its stores doubled the price of a gallon of Clorox bleach to \$8.99 and offered two types of 3M respirator masks for an "everyday low price" of \$39.95 a pair — more than four times what Home Depot advertised.

"I'm very disappointed with Menards' choice of actions during this uneasy time," one man who believed he was overcharged for bleach wrote in an affidavit. Menards spokesman Jeff Abbott said in a statement that the Wisconsin-based chain considered the Clorox price reasonable because the product had a higher bleach concentration that would last customers twice as long. The statement didn't address the respirator masks.

"We are disappointed and are taking this very seriously," Abbott said.

Authorities in states including Florida were forwarding to the nation's online retail giants — including Amazon, Walmart and eBay — reports that third-party sellers on their sites were overcharging.

In a statement, Walmart spokesman Kevin Gardner said the company is "taking a firm stance" against possible price-gouging on its Marketplace site. Walmart's policy calls for removing listings that are unfairly priced.

On Wednesday, a bipartisan group of House lawmakers urged the Justice Department — which has so far focused on false claims rather than high prices — to police price gouging so that people "have access to the items they need to protect themselves, their families, and their communities."

In an AP interview this week, Attorney General William Barr pledged that the Justice Department would "come down hard" on profiteers so they are not "taking advantage to further hurt the American people." □

# McConnell plan: \$1,200 payments; \$1T rescue takes shape

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **LISA MASCARO**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell proposed direct payments of \$1,200 per person and \$2,400 for couples as part of an initial Republican response Thursday to the coronavirus outbreak.

The GOP leader unveiled his plan as Congress raced to craft a \$1 trillion rescue package to shore up households, healthcare and the U.S. economy amid the pandemic crisis and nationwide shutdown that's hurtling the country toward a likely recession.

"We need to take bold and swift action as soon as possible," McConnell, announcing his plan on the Senate floor.

It's an opening salvo in fast-track talks with Democrats as President Donald Trump urges Congress to "go big" to respond as Americans reel from the crisis.

Under the GOP leader's plan, the aid would be phased out at income thresholds of \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 per couple. Additionally, there would be \$500 payments for each child.

McConnell's proposal aligns with the Trump administration's push to swiftly send a first round of checks to American households for immediate needs.

Additionally, the McConnell plan would provide \$300 billion in loans to small businesses, including loans that would eventually be forgiven for employers who use them to meet payroll expenses.

Keeping paychecks flowing for idled workers as jobless claims skyrocket is a top priority for both Republican and Democratic plans emerging from Congress. But how best to send direct payments to Americans — as one-time stipends, ongoing payroll support or unemployment checks — is a crucial debate.

Democrats have their own proposals for ushering aid to Americans, and even McConnell's GOP senators

panned Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's idea of direct checks of \$3,000 for a family of four — preferring instead to use the federal dollars to keep workers who are asked to stay home on the business payrolls.

"What I want is income, not one check," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., summing up the views of some exiting a long, private meeting of GOP senators on Capitol Hill.

Trump administration officials, including Mnuchin and economic adviser Larry Kudlow, are expected to return to Capitol Hill on Friday to launch bipartisan negotiations with Senate Democrats.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, on a conference call with more than 220 House Democrats, urged them to "think big," according to people on the call granted anonymity to discuss it.

Pelosi reminded them after her recent talk with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell that interest rates are low. The outlay should be considered an investment, Pelosi told them.

Democrats compiling their own priorities in the House and Senate suggest other ways to keep paychecks flowing in what Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called "employment insurance" — which he characterized as "unemployment insurance on steroids."

Schumer said utilizing the existing unemployment insurance system run by the states would be a "quick and easy" way to distribute money to the newly jobless. "People desperately need it," Schumer said.

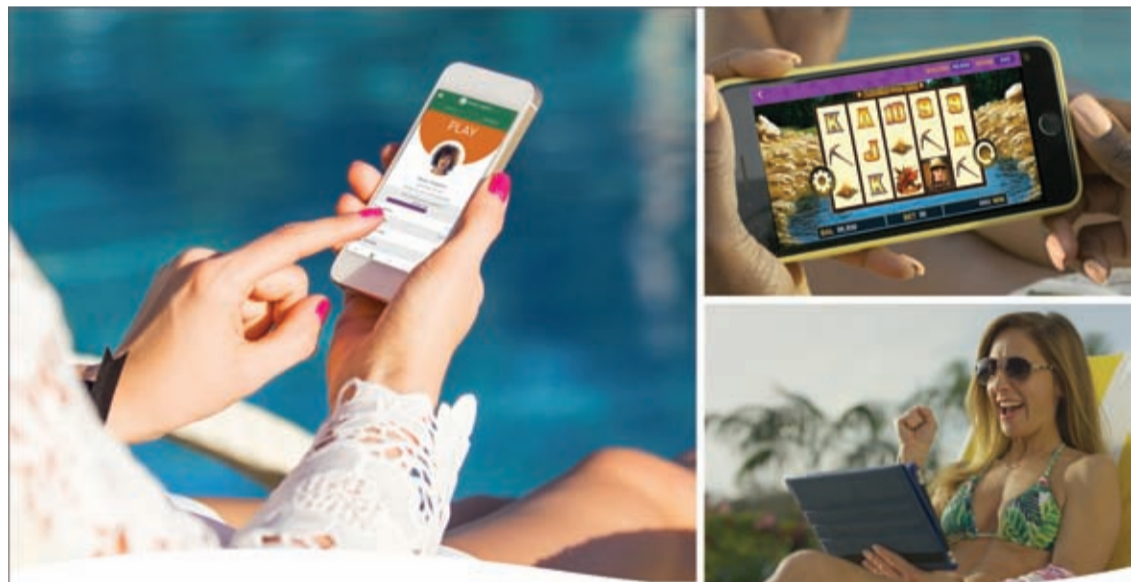
The swift-moving effort in an all-but-shuttered Capitol came as the first two lawmakers tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, others are self-isolating and the usually tradition-bound Congress faced calls to ease rules and allow remote voting.

Unlike the airline bailout after the 9/11 attacks, there would not be direct cash grants to airlines, according to the bill. □



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., walk to attend a Republican policy lunch on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Associated Press



**PLAY FOR FREE. GET REWARDED.**

Download the **WindCreekCasino.com** app today. Play for FREE to get amazing rewards like FREE Play, dining credits, and hotel stays, available only at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. Register with event code **!RATODAY** to receive

**FREE \$10 PLAY\***

Redeemable at Wind Creek Crystal Casino.

\*Limit one prize per registered account. Offer expires 12/31/2019. Email verification is required to complete registration. May be redeemed for either FREE Slot Play or FREE Match Play at tables.



**FIND YOUR WINNING MOMENT.®**

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino • WindCreekAruba.com ©2019 Wind Creek Hospitality. See PLAYER SERVICES for details.

# Gabbard ends long-shot 2020 bid, throws support to Biden

By MEG KINNARD

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)** — Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard suspended her presidential campaign on Thursday, ending a long-shot effort that saw her feuding with Hillary Clinton and raising fears among Democrats that she would mount a third-party 2020 bid.

In an email and a video posted to Twitter, Gabbard offered her full support to former Vice President Joe Biden, saying "it's clear that Democratic primary voters have chosen" him to take on President Donald Trump in November.

Noting their political differences, Gabbard said she respected Biden and had confidence in the motivations of his campaign effort. "Although I may not agree with the vice president on every issue, I know that he has a good heart, and he's motivated by his love for our country and the American people," Gabbard said. "I'm confident that he will lead our country, guided by the spirit of aloha respect and compassion, and thus help heal the divisiveness that has been



In this Feb. 8, 2020, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, speaks during the McIntyre-Shaheen 100 Club Dinner in Manchester, N.H.

Associated Press

tearing our country apart." As the coronavirus outbreak continues, Gabbard, a military veteran and a major in the Army National Guard, said she would focus on her continued service, including military experience, should it be needed.

"I feel that the best way I can be of service at this time is to continue to work

for the health and wellbeing of the people of Hawaii and our country in Congress, and to stand ready to serve in uniform should the Hawaii National Guard be activated," said Gabbard, who served two tours of duty in the Middle East. During her candidacy, Gabbard appeared often on Fox News Channel and angered fellow Democrats

by voting "present" on the articles of impeachment against Trump.

Gabbard attracted a sizable following in New Hampshire, where she frequently campaigned ahead of the state's February primary. Some past supporters of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state warmed to her campaign over time, and she espoused a similar outsider approach to Sanders' 2016 run, which she supported. She was also part of what once was a historically diverse Democratic field and the last of a half-dozen female candidates to depart the race. The 38-year-old American Samoan's campaign website described her as "the first Hindu to run for president and first practicing Hindu in Congress." And as one of the youngest candidates in the field, Gabbard outlasted senators and governors who came into the large Democratic primary race with higher profiles.

Although she failed to qualify for any stage past the fifth debate, in November, Gabbard was awarded two delegates once voting began, according to The Associated Press' count, both in the March 2 contest in her native American Samoa.

Yet Gabbard's 2020 campaign was also quick to attract questions from voters.

The Hawaii congresswoman has faced backlash for her 2017 meeting in Syria with Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose government has been accused of chemical weapons attacks against its own citizens. And with a primary challenge looming, she announced in October she would not run for reelection to her Hawaii congressional seat. Gabbard's decision became public shortly after a public feud with Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee. In a podcast interview, Clinton appeared to call her "the favorite of the Russians" and said she believed Republicans have "got their eye on somebody who's currently in the Democratic primary and are grooming her to be the third-party candidate."

Gabbard responded by calling Clinton the "personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long." In January, she filed a defamation lawsuit against Clinton, saying Clinton's comments were based on either her own imagination or "extremely dubious conspiracy theories" that any reasonable person would know to be "inherently and objectively unreliable."

Asked to comment on the lawsuit, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said, "That's ridiculous."

As most of her Democratic House colleagues voted to impeach Trump in December, Gabbard chose to vote present on the two articles of impeachment. Former Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie called for Gabbard to resign over the vote and said she wasn't doing her job representing Hawaii.

"Look, I did not take the easy vote," Gabbard said after returning to the campaign trail. "I took the vote that I felt was in the best interest of our country and standing in the center to be able to bring the country together, to be able to begin this reconciliation that I think is so necessary in this terribly divided moment in our country." □

**HARBOUR HOUSE**  
Aruba

**The New Downtown Living**  
**Get your Own Ocean Front Condo**

**Over 70% Already Sold**

(+297) 594 6395  
Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba  
sales@harbourhousearuba.com

www.harbourhousearuba.com

**ONLINE GROCERY DELIVERY SERVICE***From the Store to your Door!***\$20 OFF**  
Coupon code:  
ARUBATODAY**STAY SAFE  
at Home****We deliver Groceries, Beverages &  
Essentials to your front door!****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****AP-NORC poll: Fear of virus infection spikes among Americans**By **SARA BURNETT and EMILY SWANSON****Associated Press****CHICAGO (AP)** — Concern among Americans that they or a loved one will be infected by the coronavirus rose dramatically in the past month, with two-thirds of the country now saying they're at least somewhat concerned about contracting the COVID-19 illness.

That's up from less than half who said so in February. Still, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that about 3 in 10 Americans say they're not worried at all about the coronavirus.

And while the survey found that most say they're taking at least some actions to prevent the disease from spreading, experts say it also shows the country is not doing all of what's needed to reduce infections, such as canceling travel.

"Some set of people is still going about their daily lives, and that needs to change pretty rapidly," said Caroline Pearson, a senior vice president at NORC at the University of Chicago and a health policy expert. "Now they need to do the hard things, not just the easy things that don't disrupt their life."

The poll found that younger adults have greater concerns about the coronavirus than older Americans, with 43% of adults under 30 being very worried, compared with 21% of those age 60 and over. Pearson said that may be because younger people are more likely to feel uncertain about jobs or health insurance or to worry about older family members like parents or grandparents.

That disparity by age does not match the threat posed

by the virus. Deaths to date in the U.S. mirror the experience in other countries, with about 4 out of 5 fatalities occurring in people 65 and older, and no deaths in children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While the poll found that about 3 in 10 Americans say they're highly worried about the illness, about the same number are unconcerned — with 7% saying they were not taking any of the prevention measures asked about in the poll, including more frequent hand washing or staying away from large groups.

That's a red flag for Libby Richards, a Purdue University nursing professor who teaches courses on population health.

"We do need that 33% to change if we're going to keep this under control as much as possible," Richards said, adding that "maybe that 7% of people are already excellent hand washers, but I doubt it."

The survey found that about 9 in 10 Americans say they're washing their hands more frequently, roughly 7 in 10 are avoiding large groups and about 6 in 10 are avoiding touching their faces. Older Americans are especially likely to say they're avoiding large groups, with 77% saying they've done that in response to the coronavirus. Public health officials have urged people to do their part to slow the spread of the virus before hospitals and other health facilities are overwhelmed. Schools and sporting events have been canceled, and restaurants and Las Vegas casinos closed. President Donald Trump's administration said Monday that people should avoid social gatherings with groups of more



In this March 18, 2020 photo, a traveler checks his mobile telephone while passing a map of the United States on the way to the security checkpoint in the main terminal in Denver International Airport in Denver.

**Associated Press**

than 10 people. But of those who had travel plans in the next few months, a minority — 22% of those who had domestic travel plans and 41% of those with international travel plans — say they've canceled them. About another 3 in 10 of each group say they've considered canceling, while the rest are still planning to travel. On Saturday, Trump expanded European travel restrictions due to the global pandemic, telling Americans, "If you don't have to travel, I wouldn't do it." The CDC has advised that travelers are more likely to get infected if they go to a destination where the virus is spreading and in crowded

settings such as airports. The poll was conducted March 12-16, when information about the virus was changing rapidly, as was the Trump administration's reaction to it. Trump declared the pandemic a national emergency on March 13, making up to \$50 billion available for local and state governments to respond to the crisis, and announced a range of executive actions aimed at expanding testing for the virus. The administration also started work on a \$1 trillion aid and stimulus plan. Richards said she's hopeful the numbers of Americans worried about the coronavirus would be higher in a poll conducted entirely af-

ter Trump declared the national emergency. Still, she said she's been troubled by people who don't seem to be taking the warnings seriously, including those she's seen in images of crowded Florida beaches.

For most people, COVID-19 causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. It can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, for some people, especially older adults and those with existing health problems. Most people recover — those with mild illness in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks, according to the World Health Organization. □



# NTSB blames drivers, Tesla, lax regulations in Florida crash

By **TOM KRISHER**

**DETROIT (AP)** — The National Transportation Safety Board says two drivers, Tesla and lax regulation of new partially automated driving systems are to blame for a fatal 2019 crash in Florida involving a Tesla on Autopilot.

The NTSB, in a report issued Thursday, said the design of the Autopilot system contributed to the crash because it allowed the Tesla driver to avoid paying attention. Tesla also failed to limit where Autopilot can be used, allowing drivers to activate it in areas it wasn't designed for, the report said.

The board, which investigates crashes and makes safety recommendations, also took the unusual step of accusing the government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of contributing to the crash. The agency failed to make sure automakers put safeguards in place to limit use of electronic driving systems to areas where they are designed to work, the report said.

The report was another case of sparring between the two federal agencies over regulating new electronic driver-assist technology, which NHTSA so far has been reluctant to do. The March 1, 2019, crash in Delray Beach, Florida, killed



This Oct. 3, 2018, file photo shows the logo of Tesla Model 3 at the Auto show in Paris.

Associated Press

the 50-year-old driver of a Tesla Model 3. The car was traveling 69 miles per hour (111 kilometers per hour) when neither the driver nor the Autopilot system braked or tried to avoid a tractor-trailer that was crossing in its path on U.S. 441 around 6:17 a.m. The car struck the trailer, whose driver the report cited for turning in front of the Tesla. The trailer sheared off the Tesla's roof. The truck driver was not hurt.

"The Delray Beach investigation marks the third fatal vehicle crash we have investigated where a driver's

overreliance on Tesla's Autopilot and the operational design of Tesla's Autopilot have led to tragic consequences," NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said in a statement.

At a hearing last month on a California fatal crash, board members were frustrated that safety recommendations from previous Tesla Autopilot crashes had been ignored by Tesla, and that NHTSA has not taken action on its recommendations.

NHTSA referred to a previous statement that it will review the NTSB's report and

that all commercially available vehicles require human drivers to stay in control at all times.

The Delray Beach crash was remarkably similar to one in 2016 in Williston, Florida, which also killed a Tesla driver.

In the Delray Beach crash, the driver turned on the car's adaptive cruise control system, which keeps it a set distance from vehicles of ahead of it, 12.3 seconds before impact, the NTSB found. Autosteer, which keeps the car centered in its lane, was turned on 2.4 seconds later. No pressure

was detected on the steering wheel in the 7.7 seconds before the crash, the report said.

Tesla told the NTSB that the driver wasn't warned about not having his hands on the wheel "because the approximate 8-second duration was too short to trigger a warning under the circumstances," the report said.

The NTSB's report said Autopilot wasn't designed to work in areas with cross traffic, yet Tesla allows drivers to use it under those circumstances. Tesla told the NTSB that forward collision warning and automatic emergency braking systems on the Model 3 in the Delray Beach crash weren't designed to activate for crossing traffic or to prevent crashes at high speeds.

"According to Tesla, the Autopilot vision system did not consistently detect and track the truck as an object or threat as it crossed the path of the car," the report said.

A message was left Thursday seeking comment from Tesla, which warns in owners manuals that Autopilot is designed for use on limited access highways with no cross traffic. The company also says Autopilot is a driver-assist system and that drivers must be ready to intervene at all times. □

## Coronavirus baby boom another curve that could be flattened

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — Millions of romantic partners, cooped up together for weeks or months, with little to do other than watch reruns and play board games. A recipe for a baby boom, right?

Not so fast, say America's family planning providers. They're fine with folks dimming the lights, but they also want to dim any hopes of a population spike.

In chilly and home-bound Maine, for example, one of the state's key providers of family planning services is taking steps to make sure patients don't see an interruption in birth control prescriptions while much

of the state enters shutdown mode because of the coronavirus pandemic. That includes extending birth control services for three months, the nonprofit Maine Family Planning said. Other family planning nonprofits elsewhere across the country are taking similar steps, Maine Family Planning vice president of program services Evelyn Kieltyka said.

"We wanted to accommodate our patients. For women and families, there's already enough anxiety, so the idea that you can't get access to birth control is just too much," he said.

Unexpected population-

wide stretches of isolation at home sometimes results in a boom in births nine months later. Such a bump happened in Maine and New Hampshire after the 1998 ice storm that shut down parts of the Northeast.

Similar baby bumps have happened after events such as hurricanes that required partners to remain cooped up alone for long stretches of time.

Planned Parenthood, the biggest provider of reproductive health services in the country, is also doing more to make sure access to birth control is easy amid the pandemic. The orga-

nization on Wednesday encouraged patients to make use of PPDirect, an app that connects them to a provider via video so they can get birth control pills without setting foot outside. The app is available in more than two dozen states.

"We remain committed to delivering compassionate, non-judgmental reproductive and sexual health care to all who need it while we take proactive measures to stay as far ahead of COVID-19 as possible," said Meagan Gallagher, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Services offered by provid-

ers weren't limited to just birth control pills, either. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania alerted patients via its website that birth control patches and the NuvaRing were also available via online appointments. The organization, like many health care providers, was instructing patients with symptoms of coronavirus to use the online services or reschedule appointments. Maine Family Planning and other family planning providers are also stepping up efforts to offer more telehealth services and provide more birth control via mail. □

## Police use DNA, genealogy to arrest suspect in 1985 slaying

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)** — A Florida police department says it solved a 35-year-old homicide by using DNA to find a relative of the alleged killer and then created a family tree to track him down.

Pensacola detectives arrested 57-year-old Daniel Wells on Wednesday and charged him with the slaying of Tonya McKinley, 23, whose body was found before dawn on New Year's Day 1985. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted, according to the Pensacola News Journal. She left behind an 18-month-old son.

"This was a case that spanned three generations

of detectives," said Pensacola police Capt. Chuck Mallett, who led the investigation. "I know it took a long time, but it was one of those cases we never gave up on."

McKinley had last been seen at a Pensacola bar at about 1:30 a.m. New Year's Day. Her partially nude body was found four hours later in an empty lot by a family taking their dog to the emergency vet. No suspects had been publicly identified since and police found no DNA matches.

But over the last two years, police departments have begun running profiles of DNA left behind at old murders and sexual assaults

against online databases where genealogy hobbyists and others post their DNA profiles in hopes of finding long-lost relatives. When detectives find DNA that suggests someone is related to the killer or rapist, they make a family tree of that person looking for male relatives who lived near where the attack took place.

If they find a possible hit, detectives surreptitiously follow the suspect until he discards a coffee cup, piece of gum or something else that would have his DNA. They recover and test the item, hoping for a match. Police say that's what happened here — DNA recovered from a cigarette butt Wells discarded matched McKinley's killer. He is being held at the Escambia County Jail without bond, charged with murder and sexual battery. Court records do not list an attorney representing him. The News Journal said Wells had two arrests within three years of McKinley's death: one for battery and the other for soliciting a prostitute. He



This booking photo provided by Escambia County Corrections shows Daniel Wells.

Associated Press

## Man dies by apparent suicide in ICE family detention center

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A 27-year-old Honduran man died by apparent suicide at one of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's family detention centers, authorities said Thursday.

ICE said the man was pronounced dead at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday after being found unresponsive at the Karnes County Residential Center in South Texas, which detains about 700 parents and children. ICE did not identify the man.

The legal group RAICES says it was representing the man and called his death "devastating."

The death was the ninth to occur in ICE custody since the start of the governmental fiscal year in October, exceeding the eight deaths that occurred in the prior year.

Advocates have called on ICE to reduce its detainee population and its operations to arrest migrants in the U.S. without authorization amid the coronavirus outbreak, which could pose a special risk to people jailed in close quarters. ICE said Wednesday that it would scale back enforcement to detain "public

safety risks and individuals subject to mandatory detention based on criminal grounds."

"We anticipate that this won't be the last death at Karnes unless ICE immediately releases all those detained at this detention center and in custody around the country," Lucia Allain, a spokeswoman for RAICES, said in a statement. "A dirty and cramped detention center in the face of a pandemic is unsafe and inhumane."

In sworn legal declarations the group released Tuesday, two migrants reported getting sick from the drinking water they are provided at Karnes, which had 680 people in detention last week. Another migrant said detainees are denied access to hand sanitizer. They are instead told to use body wash in the showers to clean their hands at all times.

ICE said in a statement that the facility has hand soap dispensers that are checked twice daily and detained migrants are "encouraged" to report any shortages. The agency also said it provides free water, milk, and juice. □

pleaded no contest to the battery charge.

McKinley's son, Timothy Davidson Jr., is now in his mid-30s. He told the News Journal he was happy to learn of the arrest.

"My mom, she never got to raise me, never got to be a part of my life," Davidson said. "(Wells) got to live his life the last 35 years. He got to have a family. He got to

be around his children ... and all those years he was out there, knowing what he did. He was carrying it around with him and he was never going to tell anyone what he did. He wasn't going to ever just say what he did on his own.

"Nothing could ever make up for losing my mom, but at least now we know what happened to her." □

Join us at **RED FISH**  
Quality Seafood Restaurant

Orange Plaza - Italiestraat 50  
Tel: 280-6666 - [www.redfisharuba.com](http://www.redfisharuba.com)  
Tuesday to Sunday - 11:30am to 10:00pm

# UN chief: World at war with a virus, recession near certain

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday the world "is at war with a virus" and warned that "a global recession — perhaps of record dimensions — is a near certainty."

The U.N. chief said "people are suffering, sick and scared" and stressed that current responses by individual countries will not address "the global scale and complexity of the crisis."

"This is a moment that demands coordinated, decisive, and innovative policy action from the world's leading economies," Guterres told reporters from U.N. headquarters in New York. "We must recognize that the poorest countries and most vulnerable — especially women — will be the hardest hit."

The secretary-general welcomed next week's emergency summit of leaders of the Group of 20 major economic powers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he will participate with the message that this is an unprecedented situation which requires creativity — "and the magnitude of the response must match its scale."

"COVID-19 is killing people, as well as attacking the real economy at its core — trade, supply chains, businesses, jobs," Guterres said. "Entire countries and cities are in lock down. Borders are closing. Companies are struggling to stay in business and families are simply struggling to stay afloat."

The International Labor Organization just reported that workers around the world could lose as much as \$3.4 trillion in income by the end of this year, he said.

The secretary-general said world leaders have the opportunity to steer the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic "toward a more sustainable and inclusive path."

"But poorly coordinated policies risk locking in — or even worsening — already unsustainable

inequalities, reversing hard-won development gains and poverty reduction," he warned.

Guterres called for global action to tackle the health emergency, the social impact of the pandemic, and the economic response and recovery.

"If we let the virus spread like wildfire — especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world — it would kill millions of people," he said.

"And we need to immediately move away from a situation where each country is undertaking its own health strategies to one that ensures, in full transparency, a coordinated global response, including helping countries that are less prepared to tackle the crisis," Guterres said. The secretary-general said governments must give strongest support to the global effort to fight the virus led by the U.N. World Health Organization, including responding to its \$675 million appeal.

"Health spending must be scaled up right away to meet urgent needs and the surge in demand — expanding testing, bolstering facilities, supporting health care workers, and ensuring adequate supplies — with full respect for human rights and without stigma," Guterres said.

Unlike the 2008 financial crisis, he said, banks must be part of the solution and "the liquidity of the financial system must be guaranteed, and banks must use their resilience to support their customers."

Guterres said the focus must be on the most vulnerable people — low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises — and "that means wage support, insurance, social protection, preventing bankruptcies and job loss."

"That also means designing fiscal and monetary responses to ensure that the burden does not fall on those who can least afford it," he said.

"And we must refrain from the temptation of resorting to protectionism. This is the time to dismantle trade barriers and re-establish supply

chains."

Guterres said resources need to get into the hands of people, noting that some countries are adopting cash transfers and universal income.

"We need to take it to the next level to ensure support reaches those entirely dependent on the informal economy and countries less able to respond," he said.

The secretary-general stressed that remittances "are a lifeline in the developing world — especially now."

He said countries have committed to reducing remittance fees to 3 percent, but the COVID-19 crisis requires that they get as close to zero as possible.

G20 leaders have also waived interest payments to protect their own citizens and economies, he said.

"We must apply that same logic to the most vulnerable countries in our global village and alleviate their debt burden," Guterres said.

The secretary-general was asked where the money was going to come from to fund his ambitious program, given that many G20 countries are dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks at home.

"We see that whenever there is a problem in the banking system, trillions appear to solve the problems of the banks," he said. "And these trillions must appear now."

"Governments, central banks must work to guarantee that there is liquidity in the economy but also that funds are mobilized to those that are most in need," both individuals and the poorest countries, the U.N. chief said.

Guterres stressed the need for solidarity saying political, religious and community leaders must convey a very strong message that the fight against COVID-19 must be done together — and that "it's very important to fight fake news" and social media campaigns that try to spread fear, antagonism and create divisions. □

# Thailand says all int'l arrivals need virus-free certificate

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Thailand's government is imposing stricter rules on international travel that require people arriving from all countries to have health certificates stating they do not have the coronavirus, along with medical insurance covering the disease. The measures fall short of the total bans on international flights many countries have enacted, but are

expected to sharply cut the number of visitors. Thailand has been reluctant to endanger its large tourism industry, which accounts for about 12% of its economy, according to official figures.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand on Thursday night issued the new guidelines covering arrivals, saying they would come into effect at midnight Saturday night Thai time.

The practicality of the measures is unclear, since many countries will not test people for the coronavirus unless they already have symptoms and meet other criteria.

The decision comes just two days after the government announced that medical certificates and insurance

would be required only for people arriving from "disease infected zones" — South Korea, China, Macao, Hong Kong, Italy and Iran — or who had visited "ongoing local transmission areas" — the United States, parts of Japan, Britain and eight other European countries.

The health certificates now required for all arrivals must be issued within 72 hours of departure, and the insurance must cover \$100,000 in medical costs.

Thai citizens also need to have health certificates but not insurance policies. In addition they will have to self-quarantine for 14 days. Quarantine rules for arriving foreigners remain unclear.

"Today we are trying to block those who bring the

disease into Thailand, so that's why I tell you that everyone who is about to enter Thailand should have a health certificate," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said. "That is an extension from four countries and two territories, but today we need it from every country as we attempt to control the outbreak in the country and lower the number of infected people as much as we can."

Thailand on Thursday reported 60 new confirmed cases of the virus, bringing its total to 272. It has registered one death and discharged 42 recovered patients.

On Tuesday the government announced a raft of measures to combat the virus, including postponing a

major holiday and shutting down schools nationwide. Provincial governors have been empowered to close venues where people gather, including massage parlors, entertainment places, gyms and sports venues. The popular tourist destination of Phuket on Thursday joined Bangkok and other provinces in applying such restrictions.

Postponing the annual public holiday of Songkran is meant to discourage the gathering and movement of large numbers of people. Millions of Thais normally travel from the big cities where they work to their hometowns during the three-day holiday to celebrate the traditional New Year. It will be rescheduled later this year. □







In this Thursday, March 5, 2020 file photo, European Commission's Head of Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom Michel Barnier speaks during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels.

Associated Press

## EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier has coronavirus

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Michel Barnier, the European Union's chief negotiator for the bloc's future relationship with Britain after Brexit, has been infected with the new coronavirus.

The 69-year-old Barnier said in a Twitter video message Thursday that he is doing well and is in good spirits, while the EU's executive arm said negotiations with British officials can continue.

"I am following all the necessary instructions, as is my team," Barnier said from his home, where he has been confined. "For all those affected already, and for all those currently in isolation, we will get through this together."

Barnier's announcement prompted a series of good wishes messages, including from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU Council President Charles Michel.

European Commission spokesman Eric Mamer said von der Leyen will be tested following Barnier's positive result. Barnier and the EU chief last met two weeks ago. So far she has not shown any symptom of illness. Michel's press service said he is well, too,

but will "telework at home for another two days" as a matter of precaution after meeting with Barnier 12 days ago.

Even before Barnier's tweet, the second round of post-Brexit trade negotiations that was due to take place in London this week had already been canceled because of the coronavirus outbreak. London is the epicenter of Britain's virus infections.

The pandemic has scuttled face-to-face negotiations between the two sides and has increased speculation that the U.K. government will have to extend its self-imposed Dec. 31 deadline to strike a deal with the bloc. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is refusing to discuss that idea, at least in public. On Wednesday he said the Dec. 31 date was enshrined in British law, and "I have no intention of changing it."

Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, said "we send Michel Barnier our best wishes." He would not comment on whether the transition period could be extended beyond the end of 2020.

"We've been in close conversation with the EU about looking at ways to continue progressing the nego-

tiations, and I believe both sides have shared their texts" of potential agreements, Slack said.

The coronavirus pandemic has infected 219,000 people around the world and killed more than 8,900. About 84,000 have recovered. Aside from the elderly and the sick, most people only have mild or moderate symptoms, like a fever or cough.

Negotiating teams from both sides have looked at alternative ways of continuing the negotiations during the outbreak, including by video conferencing. Mamer said on Thursday talks can continue, insisting that the two sides remain in contact remotely.

Although Britain left the political institutions of the EU on Jan. 31, it remains part of the bloc's tariff-free single market and customs union until the end of this year.

Johnson has said he wants a comprehensive trade deal completed this year. The Conservative leader said he won't seek an extension to the country's current transition period, insisting that 11 months is more than enough time to secure a wide-ranging deal with the EU for goods and services. □



In this Sept.30 2019 file photo, Prince Albert of Monaco leaves the Elysee Palace after a lunch with heads of states and officials, in Paris.

Associated Press

## Monaco's head of state Prince Albert II contracts new virus

**PARIS (AP)** — The palace of Monaco says its ruler, Prince Albert II, has tested positive for the new coronavirus but his health is not worrying.

Albert, 62, appeared to be the first head of state who has publicly said he contracted the virus.

In a statement Thursday, the palace said he is being treated by doctors from the Princess Grace Hospital, named after his U.S. actress mother. It says Albert is continuing to work from his home office in the palace and is in constant contact with members of his government.

In the statement, Albert urged residents of his tiny

Mediterranean principality to respect confinement measures.

Albert is the second child of Princess Grace — formerly Grace Kelly — and Prince Rainier of Monaco. Albert became a five-time Olympic bobsledder and in recent years has been a global environmental campaigner.

Fluent in English and French, Albert graduated from Amherst College in Massachusetts with a degree in political science in 1981, and is a member of the International Olympic Committee.

He and his wife, the former Charlene Wittstock, have twin children. □

## Germany bans anti-Semitic group, raids homes

**BERLIN (AP)** — Authorities conducted raids in 10 German states Thursday at premises linked to a group accused of pursuing a mix of anti-government and racist ideology.

Germany's top security official, Horst Seehofer, issued a ban on United German Peoples and Tribes, the first time a group associated with the so-called Reichsbuerger movement has been proscribed.

Reichsbuerger, or Reich

citizens, have similarities to the sovereign citizens movements in the United States and elsewhere. They reject the authority of the modern German state and promote the notion of "natural rights," often mixing this ideology with far-right politics and esoteric conspiracy theories. Authorities say members of the newly banned group, whose activities were focused in Berlin, had issued threats against German officials. □

# Indonesia halts Islamic assembly, quarantining 9,000 people

By **NINIEK KARMINI** and **EILEEN NG**

**Associated Press**

**MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP)**

— Indonesia halted a mass congregation of nearly 9,000 Muslim pilgrims and began quarantining them and checking their health Thursday to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus amid a spike in cases. The four-day gathering at a boarding school in a rural area in south Sulawesi province wasn't approved by authorities and drew fears it could spread the virus widely in the world's fourth most populous nation.

It was organized by a Muslim missionary movement, *Jamaat Tabligh*, which held a similar event in Malaysia three weeks ago that has been linked to nearly two-thirds of that country's 900 infections as well as dozens of cases in other nations.

South Sulawesi Gov. Nurdin Abdullah said medical teams screening more than 8,600 participants found a local man with fever who was taken to a hospital.

"We've worked hard in dealing with this issue, involving religious leaders and security forces. We have told the pilgrims that we are in an emergency state of coronavirus and only common discipline can break the COVID-19's wide spread," Abdullah said.

The move came as Indonesia reported six more deaths for a total of 25, the most in Southeast Asia, and its biggest daily jump of 82 cases to 309.

Pictures and videos posted by some participants on social media showed long rows of blue makeshift tents on a field at the school. Devotees in long white robes and skullcaps sat close to each other or slept on mats on the ground.

Sentot Abu Thoriq, a member of the organizing committee, said he regretted the government's decision to reject the event that had been planned more than a year ago. He said those who are ill have been told to stay away, and noted that those arriving would have passed stringent health checks at the coun-



**A Muslim pilgrim stands on a field where a mass congregation is supposed to be held in Gowa, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, Thursday, March 19, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

try's airports and sea ports. "The decision and the treatment is clearly against our faith and hurt us," Thoriq said. "Health, illness or death is God's destiny, we believe that God will bless and protect those who are devout."

The committee chief later said it accepted the government's decision for the safety of all.

The cancellation surprised some participants who arrived early Thursday.

"I didn't know about that," Indonesian Muhammad Sayid told Kompas TV upon arrival at a bus station in the area. "This is a very important agenda for us and has been long awaited."

Abdullah said 411 foreigners from nine countries in-

cluding Malaysia, Singapore and Saudi Arabia will be quarantined at a hotel. They will be allowed to leave later based on their ticket dates. Indonesians will be escorted to their home villages or must stay in a government dormitory, but quarantine is compulsory for 14 days once they reach home, Abdullah said.

Indonesia's swift move could help prevent an outbreak like in Malaysia, which on Wednesday sealed its borders and shut schools, businesses and government offices in a two-week lockdown. A Malaysian man who attended the mass Islamic event was among two people in the country who died.

With participants in the Malaysian event huddled together for prayers, sermons and sleeping in a confined space as well as communal eating with hands from shared trays, the virus spread unnoticed during the four-day gathering involving 16,000 people, including from the former pandemic hot spots of China and South Korea. The outbreak from the Malaysian gathering came to light nearly two weeks later when Brunei reported its first cases involving citizens who had returned from the event.

People from Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam also were infected.

Indonesia's government

has been criticized as slow to deal with the virus's spread, which could overwhelm health care system in the country of more than 267 million people.

President Joko Widodo has called for all mass gatherings to be canceled, but such orders could be hard to enforce in the sprawling archipelago.

In another large religious gathering, Catholics attended the ordination of a new bishop on Thursday in a remote town on Flores island. Organizers said about 4,000 people from across the country attended, although government officials said there were 1,000. Images of the ceremony posted on social media showed people inside the Ruteng cathedral seated next to each other, ignoring social distancing measures. Ruteng resident Sebastian Rida said health officers asked guests to use masks and hand sanitizers but not everyone complied. Rida said he wasn't worried about the virus threat.

"I did not think about it. I just wanted to see the new bishop," he said.

Provincial official Marius Ardu Jelamu said the event was long planned and couldn't be postponed, but that they tried to restrict people from attending. Cabinet ministers and other top officials also didn't participate.

Mass religious gatherings have been curbed in many places to contain the coronavirus.

Many Muslims believe in divine protection against the pandemic. Authorities in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh are investigating an unauthorized prayer rally where about 25,000 people reportedly sought Allah's protection.

The surprise rally Wednesday in an open field in Laxmipur district shocked many in Bangladesh, which has reported one death and 14 cases. The government shut schools and urged people to avoid public gatherings, but religious institutions, including 300,000 mosques, remain open. □

## Africa sees 'extremely rapid evolution' of pandemic, UN says

By CARA ANNA

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

More African countries closed their borders Thursday as the coronavirus' local spread threatened to turn the continent of 1.3 billion people into an alarming new front for the pandemic.

Africa is seeing an "extremely rapid evolution," the World Health Organization's regional chief, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, told reporters.

Thirty-six of Africa's 54 countries now have cases, with the total over 720. Chad and Niger announced their first cases Thursday. The first case in sub-Saharan Africa was announced Feb. 28, less than three weeks ago.

Moeti said she did not believe that large numbers of infected people are going undetected but acknowledged a shortage of testing kits. Forty-three countries have testing capability, up from two when the outbreak began. By Monday, countries will have 60,000 testing kits.

The WHO regional chief also expressed concern about



A man sprays disinfectant to sanitize a public bus against the spread of the new coronavirus, in downtown Nairobi, Kenya Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Associated Press

travel restrictions and their impact on the ability to deliver needed resources. The WHO is considering humanitarian corridors, Moeti said. But many African nations were taking their cue from China and other countries

by sharply restricting travel. On Thursday, Senegal closed its airspace. Angola and Cameroon shut air, land and sea borders. Rwanda blocked all commercial flights for a month. The island nation of Mauri-

tius closed its border after announcing its first case.

Some people in other countries clamored for their governments to block flights, too.

"To stop this virus once and for all is to stop any flight

that will land to (Nairobi's international airport). Let them stop," said Uhuru Evans, a bus driver in the capital of Kenya, East Africa's economic hub.

He offered hand sanitizer to passengers as they boarded.

"Since it was announced that it has reached Kenya, I am refusing to take customers to the airport," said Peter Muteru, a taxi driver. "It has reached a point where I carry only people I know."

South Africa, where the number of cases jumped to 150 from 116, said it would install a new fence on both sides of its main border post with economically shattered Zimbabwe to keep infected people from crossing into either country undetected. South Africa has the most cases in sub-Saharan Africa. Zimbabwe has reported none.

"We must protect our citizens and fellow Africans," Public Works Minister Patricia de Lille said. The new fence will stretch some 12 miles (19 kilometers) on either side. □

## Egypt holds activists who urged prisoner releases amid virus

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian authorities on Thursday continued to detain the mother of a prominent jailed activist, after she and three others were arrested earlier this week for staging a protest to demand the release of prisoners amid the new coronavirus outbreak.

Laila Soueif's detention came as the Egyptian government tries to maintain its firm grip on dissent amid a burgeoning world health crisis. According to human rights groups, there are tens of thousands imprisoned in Egypt for their political views.

On Wednesday, prosecutors charged Soueif and three other activists of spreading false news and violating the country's protest ban. They had stood outside the Cabinet building asking the government to free inmates over concerns that the coronavirus could rapidly spread

through Egypt's prison system.

Three of the women who protested Wednesday are related to prominent jailed Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel Fattah.

Authorities kept Soueif in custody, but on Thursday released both her sister, her daughter Mona Seif as well as the fourth activist, according to a Facebook post from another daughter, Sanaa Seif, who did not attend the protest.

Mona Seif had live-streamed a video of herself and the other three as they held up signs on a sidewalk in downtown Cairo.

"In normal circumstances, Egyptian prisons are epicenters of diseases. Can you imagine how bad things must be now in the midst of an epidemic?" she said in the video. Minutes later, the live stream was cut when police seemed to stop the filming.

A prosecutor accused them of violating the country's strict protest ban with their gathering. Sanaa Seif said her mother was taken to a prosecutors' office for further questioning Thursday. Abdel Fattah's family have all been vocal rights activists in Egypt. A 38-year-old software engineer, Abdel Fattah grew into a figurehead of the pro-democracy protest movement on social media during the 2011 uprising that removed longtime President Hosni Mubarak.

He served a five-year prison sentence for violating Egypt's protest ban, and in September, not long after his release, he was arrested again amid a widespread crackdown that followed small protests demanding current President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi step down — although he did not participate in the protests.

Egyptian authorities



In this Oct. 26, 2014 file photo, Egypt's most prominent activist Alaa Abdel Fattah, left, walks with his mother Laila Soueif, a university professor who is also an activist, outside a court, in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

could not be immediately reached for comment. El-Sissi has maintained in the past that the country has no political prisoners, but tens of thousands have been arrested and handed prison sentences for breaking the protest ban or on vague charges of spread-

ing false news.

In recent months, his government has led several press tours of prisons that show them in gleaming condition with modern health facilities. But inmates and rights workers tell a different story, of packed cells with little sunlight. □

# Brazil's Bolsonaro strives to regain leadership amid virus

By **DIANE JEANTET**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — After questioning the seriousness of COVID-19, defying his own health ministry's recommendations and denouncing a "certain hysteria," Brazil's president is now projecting himself as leading the nation's response to the coronavirus crisis in what has become one of the biggest challenges to his presidency.

President Jair Bolsonaro provoked the ire of many Brazilians and even former political allies with his blasé attitude to the global pandemic and insistence on shaking supporters' hands at a protest. One of Brazil's most popular news sites, UOL, reported Bolsonaro had suggested the Chinese government caused the coronavirus outbreak — a claim later voiced publicly by his son, a lawmaker. China's embassy rebuffed the allegations, saying on Twitter they were "extremely irresponsible."

While countries around Latin America and the world have closed borders, quarantined millions, canceled international flights, and shut down schools, Brazil



**Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro puts on a mask during a press conference on the new coronavirus at the Planalto Presidential Palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, March 18, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

has done none of these things, except for closing a stretch of its vast border with Venezuela. Flights continue in and out of the country. No lockdowns have been ordered and state governments and municipalities have taken the lead in telling people to stay home.

"Coronavirus in Brazil is act-

ing as a kind of catalyst, channeling all this discontent and accelerating the process" against Bolsonaro, said Carlos Melo, a political science professor at the Insper University in Sao Paulo. "When he came out to the streets for the protests, he made a very big, very serious mistake. Now he is trying to regain control."

Faced with a growing backlash, a concerned-looking Bolsonaro, flanked by many of his ministers, on Wednesday gave his first press conference on the coronavirus at Brazil's presidential palace. During the two-hour event, Bolsonaro said he would redouble efforts to fight COVID-19, but did not announce any new

measures.

For the first time since the outbreak, he thanked lawmakers for their efforts and called on them to approve a "state of calamity," which would allow the government to spend more than the annual budget allows, with funds going toward health and job preservation.

But the press conference conveyed mixed messages about how to deal with the pandemic. While vowing to fight the outbreak, he sat shoulder-to-shoulder with his ministers in a violation of the social distancing prescribed by international authorities. Government officials wore white masks, but several of them, including Bolsonaro, removed them repeatedly when speaking. "As the head of the executive I have to be in the front lines with my people," Brazil's president said. "Don't be surprised if you see me entering a crowded bar in Sao Paulo, a ferry from Niteroi to Rio or in a bus in Belo Horizonte."

Critics say Bolsonaro's about-face on the virus follows U.S. President Donald Trump's example. □

# 400 foreigners stranded in Panama after 'tribal' festival



**A Panamanian health worker checks the temperature of a man attending the annual Tribal Gathering on Playa Chiquita, Panama, Wednesday, March 18, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

Associated Press  
**PLAYA CHIQUITA, Panama (AP)** — Between 400 and 500 foreigners are stranded in Panama after a "tribal" festival and music event ended with many of them being quarantined at the

concert site near the Caribbean beach of Playa Chiquita, an organizer said Wednesday.

At the same time, Panama's government announced that the number of coronavirus cases in the

country had risen to 109 and that a nighttime curfew would be imposed beginning Wednesday night.

James Baker of Manchester, England, said those attending the Tribal Gathering included people from Spain, Canada, the United States, Denmark, France, Britain and Hungary as well as Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile and Mexico.

Baker said authorities in Panama had instituted a requirement that all those seeking to leave had to prove they had been in Panama for at least 14 days. Most of the estimated 2,300 attendees at the event, which ran Feb. 29-March 15, have been able to leave.

But Baker said many of the remaining festival goers and staff might need help getting back to their home

countries due to flight and transport cancellations related to the coronavirus outbreak.

Baker said the group had tents, medial support and food for about a month.

"The mood is generally good, a lot of people do obviously want to go home, so again, it's about getting the help from the authorities so they can be taken back home as quickly and safely as possible," he said. Baker said two people who had fevers at the festival tested negative for coronavirus.

"What we're telling people to do is get in touch with their embassies to get their help, like we say, we need and request the help of all authorities and embassies," Baker said. "To date, we've had very limited help from them. To date, there's

not been the help with the cost of buses, there's not been the help with flying and food and those kind of things."

Government officials reported late in the day that Panama had 109 confirmed cases of the virus, including one death.

President Laurentino Cortizo then decreed a countrywide curfew starting Wednesday night, requiring nearly all Panamanians to stay inside from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Excepted are employees working in essential areas such as police and firefighting, hospitals and pharmacies, supermarkets and restaurant delivery, agriculture and food production, hotels and banks, media and telecommunications, and shipping and public transportation. □

# LOCAL



## Editorial

By Donicio R. Wever

**ORANJESTAD — The outbreak of the corona virus caused many businesses to close their doors and also led to more unemployment. This is a serious warning: Before things better, they will get worse.**

The Central Bank of Aruba does not have many reserves, maybe four or five months maximum, and this goes along with practically no income during these months. Tourism is at a standstill, so there is no revenue from that sector. The average Aruban worker uses their salary to buy products and pay for services, and still many send money to their country of origin which results in a flight of money. The savings quota on the island is relatively lower compared to other countries with the same level of development. This is the reason that the Central Bank does not pass three or four months of import. With the shutdown of tourism, our main source of income has disappeared.

The consequences will be bigger than what Aruba experienced in 1985 when Lago (the refinery) was closed or the 2008 Financial Crisis. We will not see a recovery earlier than by the end of the year. The cinemas, restaurants, travel, minibuses and other public transportation are being crippled now.

The situation we are in right now does not have another option than to find financial support with the government of the Netherlands under favorable conditions in order to survive these difficult times. In the times of the closure of the Lago, the government of Aruba agreed to borrow 100,000,000 florin from the Netherlands. In the current situation, we would need at least twenty times that amount. It is evident that a significant amount like this needs to be calculated and determined thoroughly by financial experts and under guidance of an economist. To be clear, 2 billion florin is more or less 50 percent of what we produce on a yearly base as country. A loan of this value would be needed to bailout our economy and maintain employment on the island. The loaned sum would have to be directed to the private sector with the goal keeping people employed.

If the mandate is to give financial support to the unemployed only, those who have recently lost their jobs will do much more damage to our economy, and we are destined to fail in future reconstruction. My hope is that this article will fuel a discussion about making the right choices to help Aruba keep moving forward. □

## Send us your positive message from home

**ORANJESTAD — In these difficult times we would like to reach out to our friends abroad who were supposed to spend their tropical vacation on Aruba or who had to break up their vacation due to the COVID-19 situation. Aruba Today invites you to send us your picture and words expressing your memory of our island or your dream**

**vacation for the future. You may also just say hello and show us how you feel because we are all in the same boat right now.**

Send us your picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... (Email: news@arubatoday.com). Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials,

you give permission to The Aruba Today newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free news-



paper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again and look forward to have you here with us soon again! Stay healthy and keep safe! □

## March 22 is World Water Day



**By Melissa Martin**  
**OHIO, USA — Water is wealth. Without water life would not endure. Access to water and sanitation is a precondition to life and a declared human right.**

“For many of us, clean water is so plentiful and readily available that we rarely, if ever, pause to consider what life would be like without it.”—Marcus Samuelsson

The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoy-

ment of life is a declaration by the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2013.

World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, focuses on the importance of freshwater. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of water and sanitation for all by 2030. Will those who are working

for the good of humanity be able to achieve the goal of fresh water for all on planet earth?

In order to accelerate initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges related to water resources, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development.”

“At a most basic level, human beings cannot survive without water. Equally important is sanitation, a lack of which negatively affects our quality of life

and claims the lives of millions each year,” declared Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Lajčák continued, “While cooperation at the international level remains important, governments bear the primary responsibility to meet water and sanitation needs of their populations. Water and sanitation need to be mainstreamed into national development planning and budgeting processes, and must include sustainable use and efficiency, address wastewater, pro-

mote education and raise awareness.”

“Freshwater is the most important resource for mankind, cross-cutting all social, economic and environmental activities. It is a condition for all life on our planet, an enabling or limiting factor for any social and technological development, a possible source of welfare or misery, cooperation or conflict.” [www.en.unesco.org](http://www.en.unesco.org).

The World Water Council (WWC) considers the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be an endeavor of the highest importance for the achievement of water security throughout the world, which is crucial for a prosperous and equitable future for humankind. Help inspire action to achieve the 2030 Agenda by joining thousands of other people on World Water Day (22nd March) and World Toilet Day (19th November) to raise awareness of the water and sanitation crises and exert public pressure for change.

“We have the ability to provide clean water for every man, woman and child on the Earth. What has been lacking is the collective will to accomplish this. What are we waiting for? This is the commitment we need to make to the world, now.”—Jean-Michel Cousteau ☐

**If you have the following symptoms**

- ✓ Fever above 38°C
- ✓ Dry cough
- ✓ Difficultly breathing

**Please call the number below:**  
**2800101** 24/7

MINISTERIO DE TURISMO, SALUBRIDAD PÚBLICA Y DEPORTE



Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in U.S.

# Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ** — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by



the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.



**Bubali Magic**  
This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The affore mentioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. There will be a life after COVID-19 where Aruba's treasures will be waiting for you to be discovered! □

## Aruba to Me

**ORANJESTAD** — Aruba Today welcomes readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Jordan C. Schenk** from Colorado, USA. He wrote:

**"Aruba to me..... is the start to a new chapter in life!"**  
The picture shows the proposal celebration of Samantha J. Humbert and Jordan Schenk at Passions on the beach. March 17, 2020. □



## Aruba launches new channel: Aruba.TV



**ORANJESTAD — Aruba welcomes its first official tourist channel locally and internationally, Aruba.TV. After a joint agreement between Setar/ Telearuba and Leonardo Maduro was established, the island's new channel Aruba.TV had a soft launch September 2019. Aruba.TV team consists of local professional staff members that have expertise in the world of media and live television broadcasting.**

Aruba.TV offers a variety of content information that is interesting to our visitors. Aruba.TV offers programming in English and Spanish showing everything you need to know about the island such as where to dine, where to shop, where to relax and where to find the island's best entertainment. Aruba.TV will keep you up to date with the latest trends, entertainment, culture, shopping, restaurants, activities, beaches and tips to get around the island. Aruba.TV programming inform you about fascinating historical and cultural facts. It shows you the many museums on the islands

and promotes our local artists and our local products. For the local news, Aruba.TV signed a collaboration with Aruba Today newspaper, the only English newspaper on the island, to bring you daily updates on what's happening on the island. Furthermore, Aruba.TV covers live events such as concerts, beach tennis, beach volleyball, HI-Winds, golf tournaments and national cultural events. We even give you the opportunity to win magnificent prizes such as dinner for two, weekend stays and much more just by watching and following us.



Aruba.TV is available all around the island. Watch it on channel 49 of cable television Aruba, which is available in most hotels, resorts, Airbnb's and apartments. In addition to this, Aruba.TV is also available on various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Aruba.TV is the only local channel that is promoting our beautiful island of Aruba worldwide on the popular "Roku TV", which now has over 30 million active users.

Aruba.TV looks forward to a successful 2020 with a selection of

great programs in the near future such as Carta Blanca, which is a Spanish program about wine and dine in Aruba, also Island Lifestyle, an English program that highlights what it's like to live on the island through the eyes of our locals and immigrants. The main purpose is to engage with you as visitor through our channel.

Aruba.TV would like to give special thanks to Avianca for allowing us to be present at their amazing 100th year anniversary celebration, thank you for providing our locals and visitors with great services when traveling. Thanks to Courtyard by Marriot for trusting us in covering their wonderful grand opening. We are truly honored to have received the opportunity to work with your resort.

For more information, contact us by email at [aruba.tv@outlook.com](mailto:aruba.tv@outlook.com) or call at +297 280-0304. If you would like to stop by our location we are located at Caya Betico #200 and our office hours are from 9am to 5pm from Monday till Friday. ☐



## Things to do at home during coronavirus social distancing

**ORANJESTAD — Wpxi.com offers some great ideas to kill the boredom while taking social distancing by staying at home. Have a look at some options.**

### Baking

Grab that mixer and take your mind into the kitchen to bake up some delicious cookies, cupcakes and more! Now is the perfect time to try out those recipes you haven't had time to get to, and it is a good way to bring the family together, or have a little distraction.

### Catch up on sleep

You read that right! Trying to get those recommended eight hours of sleep can



be difficult between work, school, kids and whatever else life throws at you. Being home allows you to take those guilt-free and much needed naps to get

yourself feeling your best!

### Get fresh air

Get outside and enjoy some fresh air!

It is important to keep a safe distance of 6 feet if you are walking with a buddy, but don't let that stop you from getting your blood circulating and enjoying the outdoors. There is plenty of opportunity to walk or even take a hike.

### Binge on favorite shows

Now is the perfect time to get caught up on your favorite shows.

### Arts and Crafts

This is geared towards the kiddos. Stocking up on supplies for some DIY crafting

is a great at-home plan! Creating a space for kids to get creative and let their imagination flow can be a great way to keep them busy.

### Cleaning

Clean out the garage, closet attic or whatever else needs a little refresh!

### Play board games

Put that brain of yours to work with puzzles, cards or get competitive with a board game or two. There are plenty of ways to get the wheels turning with jigsaws, Sudoku and other classic games!

### Learn a new language

Hello, Hola, Salut, Guten

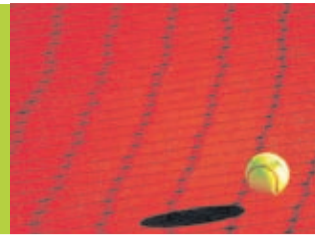
Tag -- Whether your first language is English, Spanish, French or German there is never a bad time to pick up a new language! There are plenty of sites and apps such as Duolingo, Memrise, OpenCulture and Babble that offer online resources and tools to learn new languages for free.

### Do home projects

There always seems to be something to do around the house. Kick those ideas and plans into gear with some time at home! Home projects can be anything from remodeling, to building some new furniture. No matter what plans you have, now is the perfect time to get a jumpstart! ☐



SPORTS



State athletics body argues it is not subject to Title IX

By PAT EATON-ROBB  
AP Sports Writer

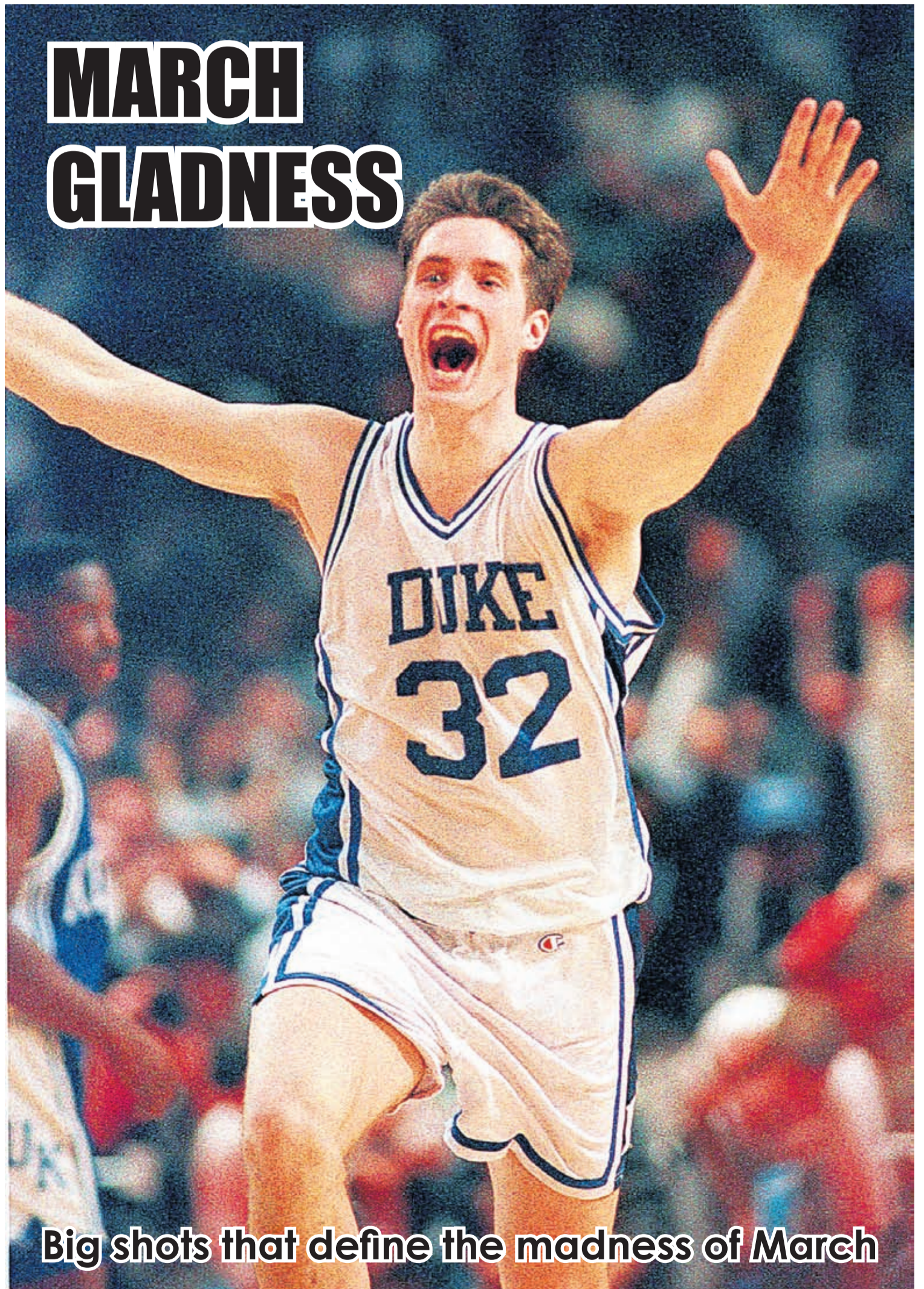
The organization that oversees high school sports in Connecticut is arguing in a court filing that it is not subject to the federal law that guarantees equal access to women and girls in education, including athletics. The argument that the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference is exempt from Title IX comes as lawyers outline their positions in a lawsuit by three female runners who are seeking to block the participation of transgender athletes in girls sports. The conference allows athletes to participate as the gender with which they identify, in accordance with a state law that says students must be treated that way in Connecticut public schools.

The lawsuit argues that male anatomy gives the transgender runners an unfair advantage in violation of Title IX.

In a March 13 filing, defense lawyers argued that the athletic conference should not be a defendant in the lawsuit, which was filed in February and also names several boards of education in districts where the track athletes compete.

"By its terms, Title IX applies only to recipients of federal funds," the defense attorneys wrote in the filing. □

MARCH GLADNESS



Big shots that define the madness of March

In this March 28, 1992, file photo, Duke's Christian Laettner runs down the court after making the last-second winning shot to defeat Kentucky 104-103 in overtime in the East Regional final NCAA college basketball game in Philadelphia.

# Uncertainty with majors as much about who plays as when

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

The new slogan the U.S. Open introduced just 17 days ago is an indication of how complicated it will be for golf to resume, assuming it ever does this year.

It's not a matter of when the majors are played. It becomes a question of who plays.

The branding campaign called "From Many, One," touches on the identity that sets the U.S. Open — men's and women's — apart from the other majors.

The U.S. Open usually gets about 9,000 entries who go through 18 holes of local qualifying or 36 holes of sectional qualifying, sometimes both. From that comes the 156-man field, half of whom have to qualify.

The USGA is sticking to its principles, at least for now, by scrapping qualifiers for men and women in May.

The U.S. Women's Open is to be played June 4-7 in Houston. The U.S. Open is set for June 18-21 at Winged Foot, located about five miles away from the new coronavirus containment zone set up in New Rochelle, New York.

Both remain on the schedule.

Before contemplating location, consider the calendar.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention got everyone's attention Sunday when it recommended that events of 50 people or more not be held for the next eight weeks, which goes until May 10, at the



In this April 14, 2019, file photo, Patrick Reed, left, helps Tiger Woods with his green jacket after Woods won the Masters golf tournament, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

minimum.

The first of 109 local qualifiers for the U.S. Open was to start on April 27 and go through May 12. The U.S. Women's Open had 25 sectional qualifiers that were to start on April 22. The first one had been scheduled for Kent, Washington, one of the hardest-hit areas for the coronavirus.

Those have been canceled.

The USGA said it would work with its partners to "redesign qualifying going forward as events unfold." Exactly how that unfolds might be the toughest test in golf.

To attempt a solution is the

right course.

It's not really a U.S. Open without qualifying at all levels. The 18-hole local qualifiers, while not as memorable as who ends up winning, are still important. That's what the brand campaign suggests, anyway. But it goes beyond qualifiers.

Exempt players include the top 10 on the LPGA Tour money list through April 15, and the top 75 in the world ranking. Keep in mind the LPGA has played only four times this year — twice in Florida, twice in Australia — before canceling or postponing six straight events,

with perhaps more to follow.

The British Open, scheduled for July 16-19, already has held four of its international final qualifiers, most recently at Bay Hill two weeks ago, with the next one scheduled in Japan at the end of May. It also takes the top 50 in the world, typically in late May, at which point a golf tournament might not have been played. The next event on the European Tour schedule, for example, is Denmark on May 21-24.

The Masters was the first men's major to be postponed, scheduled for April

9-12. Moving to May, right about the time the club closes for the summer, would seem to be a long shot. If that's the case, it would be simple enough to add the top 50 from the world ranking not already in — four players based on this week's ranking.

If it moves to the fall, Augusta National could save the PGA Tour winners after April 12 and any late entries to the top 50 until the 2021 Masters.

As for scheduling? That will require a new level of cooperation among the four organizations that run the majors and the PGA Tour and European Tour, which supply the majority of the players.

It will be a shorter season, if there is a season.

Still to be determined is the fate of the Olympics in Tokyo this summer, though the IOC is probably two months away from deciding. That involves qualifying in other sports that make golf look easy by comparison.

If no golf is played before the golf qualifying ends on June 22, the top four Americans would be Justin Thomas, Brooks Koepka, Webb Simpson and Xander Schauffele — followed by Patrick Reed and Patrick Cantlay if any of the four choose not to play. That's according to a world ranking expert known only as "Nosferatu" on Twitter.

So it would look bleak for Tiger Woods chasing a gold medal. Then again, if the Olympics are not held, that would be the least of anyone's concerns. □

# Surfing events wiped out until June amid virus outbreak

**GOLD COAST, Australia (AP)** — The World Surf League is canceling or postponing all events through the end of May, citing the continued evolution of the coronavirus pandemic.

WSL events at Bells Beach in southeast Australia and at the Margaret River on the west coast have been postponed in the wake of the cancellation of the season-opening competition on the Gold Coast.

It's not expected to be a complete wipe out, though.

WSL chief executive Erik Logan is hopeful the season will get started by mid-year, saying "June feels like the most likely time to kick off the 2020 season safely."

"We are a truly global sport. Moving tours and events between countries is challenging under the best of conditions. Under current circumstances, it's just not possible, and will not be for some time to come," Logan said in a video statement. "As a league that organizes public gatherings, we are also extremely conscious of our social responsibility not to enable and accelerate the spread of the virus."

A tour event scheduled for June 4-14 at Banyuwangi, Indonesia will either be canceled or moved to an area with more infrastructure, the WSL said. The surfing suspension follows cancellations or season delays in other sports, including the first four Formula One Grand Prix races of

the season in Australia, Bahrain, Vietnam and China and the major sports leagues in the U.S. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, and most recover. The worldwide outbreak has infected more than 179,000 people and left more than 7,000 dead. More 78,000 people have recovered, most of them in China, where the outbreak started late last year. □



# NCAA Tournament: Big shots that define the madness of March

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP Basketball Writer

This is the time of year people usually start tweeting at Ali Farokhmanesh.

The Northern Iowa fans who remember his back-to-back buzzer-beaters to beat UNLV and Kansas and usher the Panthers to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament a decade ago. The Missouri and Kansas State fans still thankful he helped take down the top-seeded Jayhawks. And yes, there will be Kansas fans still pained by the memory.

"I mean, any time someone brings it up to me or somebody randomly tweets at me, or something along those lines, it brings me back," Farokhmanesh told The Associated Press this week. "And honestly, normally this time of the year is when I start thinking about that — thinking about when I was playing."

Nothing is normal this year, though. There will be no last-second heroics in the NCAA Tournament after the outbreak of the coronavirus led to its cancellation. There will be no underdogs taking down basketball bluebloods, or previously unheralded kids becoming household names because of their heroics during the madness of March.

Instead, basketball fans will be left — like Farokhmanesh — to reflect on the big games, big shots and big moments that have come to define the NCAA Tournament as one of the most heart-stopping sporting events in the country.

For Farokhmanesh, it is not necessarily the 3-pointer in the final minute that took down Kansas in the second round of the 2010 tournament that jumps to the forefront of his mind. It's the shot he hit two days earlier, a 3 from well beyond the arc in the final seconds, that gave the Panthers a 69-66 victory over the Runnin' Rebels.

"That one gets completely passed up," said

Farokhmanesh, now an assistant at Colorado State. "Magnitude-wise Kansas was bigger, but the UNLV game, that was crazy too, because it was back and forth and we got lucky enough to have the last possession, and it was crazy because they were double-teaming us. I was pretty deep and let it fly."

There are plenty of other players in the history of the NCAA Tournament that have "let it fly," earning them a spot in the history books:

## THE SHOT

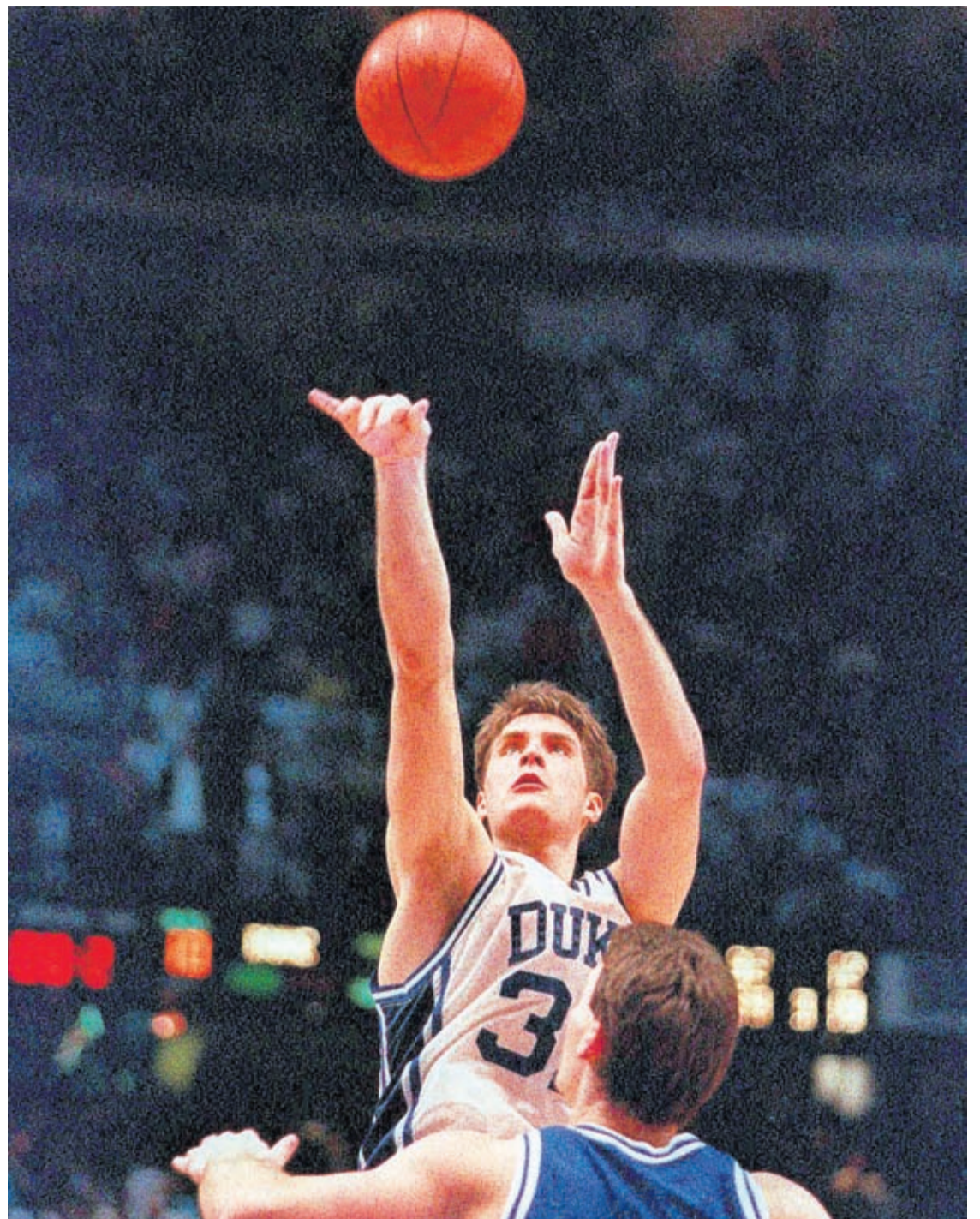
Christian Laettner hit plenty of memorable ones, including the winning jumper against Connecticut in the 1990 regional final and the winning foul shots against UNLV in the 1991 national semifinals. But it was his catch-and-shoot off a full-court pass from Grant Hill to beat Kentucky in double-overtime of their 1992 regional final that became historic.

"I don't realize what happened," Laettner said afterward. "I just caught the ball, turned around and made the shot."

## FOR THE WIN

Villanova and North Carolina had already played a championship classic in 2016 when the Tar Heels' Marcus Paige hit a 3 to tie the game 74-all with 4.7 seconds left. The Wildcats in-bounded the ball and Ryan Arcidiacono pushed up the floor, then dished to Kris Jenkins, who released the winning 3 as time expired to set off pandemonium inside NRG Stadium.

"I watched it one time," Villanova coach Jay Wright told AP this week. "I watch game film right after the game. That one I didn't. So I remember the day after the parade, our family said, 'We're going to sit down and we're going to watch this game.' We did it. The whole family sat down and watched the game and that was the only time I watched it."



In this March 28, 1992, file photo, Duke's Christian Laettner takes the winning shot in overtime over Kentucky's Deron Feldhaus for a 104-103 victory in the East Regional final NCAA college basketball game in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

## THE PERFECT MISS

To this day, North Carolina State's Dereck Whittenburg jokes his deep jumper that came up woefully short against Houston in the 1983 title game was really the perfect pass. Regardless, the Wolfpack's Lorenzo Charles was in the perfect spot to make the catch, drop the ball through the net and send Jim Valvano racing across the court like a mad man.

"I never thought it was going to be short," Whittenburg told AP years later. "I thought it was going in."

## THE SLIPPER FIT

In the pantheon of Cinderella teams, the 1998 bunch from Valparaiso are near the top of the list, and the biggest reason is Bryce Drew's winning shot against Mississippi. With the No. 13 seed Crusaders trailing with

2.5 seconds left, Bill Jenkins caught an in-bound pass from Jaime Sykes and got it to Drew, who let loose a shot as time expired. It gave Valpo a 70-69 win, kicking off a run to the Sweet 16 for Homer Drew's team.

## CHOP

The play had been in the Kansas playbook for years, and it had been practiced so many times it almost seemed like second-nature to the Jayhawks. So when coach Bill Self called "chop" with his team trailing Memphis by three in the closing seconds of the 2008 national title game, Mario Chalmers knew he was likely going to get the shot. Chalmers curled off a screen, teammate Sherron Collins handed him the ball and he drilled the shot to force overtime.

"The biggest shot in Kan-

sas history," said Self, whose team ultimately won 75-68 in OT. "It'll never be forgotten."

## MORE MEMORIES

No list of clutch shots is complete without Michael Jordan's jumper to lift North Carolina over Georgetown for the 1982 title. Indiana's Keith Smart deserves a nod for his winner over Syracuse for the 1987 championship. Tyus Edney is still cursed by Missouri fans for his coast-to-coast layup in the second round of the '94 tournament. And the indelible image of Loyola Marymount's Bo Kimball making a left-handed free throw in a first-round blow-out of New Mexico State in 1990 to honor his best friend Hank Gathers, who had died days earlier from a heart issue, remains the stuff of NCAA lore. □

# Brady the latest star to leave his longtime home

By **NOAH TRISTER**  
AP Sports Writer

Tom Brady's departure from the New England Patriots brings an end to one of the NFL's most memorable eras.

It also means fans should prepare for the sight of Brady in another uniform.

But that's happened plenty of times before in sports — a legendary star switching teams toward the end of his career. Here are a few of the most prominent examples:

## MONTANA AND RICE

Joe Montana was in some ways a previous generation's version of Brady — an iconic quarterback who was calm under pressure and always seemed to have his team in contention for a championship. He won four Super Bowl titles with San Francisco, but after elbow problems limited him for a couple seasons, the 49ers — who had the excellent Steve Young as a replacement — traded Montana to Kansas City. The Chiefs had Montana for two seasons and reached the AFC title game with him once.

The 49ers eventually moved on from Montana's most famous receiving target as well. They released Jerry Rice in 2001. He went on to play four more seasons, surpassing 1,000 yards receiving twice with the Oakland Raiders.

## GO FOR A RING

Brady's departure may remind Boston fans of when the Bruins said goodbye to Ray Bourque, but the circumstances were different. After two decades in Boston without a Stanley Cup title, Bourque asked to be traded to a contender, and the Bruins obliged by sending the star defenseman to Colorado in 2000. Bourque



In this Dec. 12, 1994 file photo Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Joe Montana watches from the sidelines during an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins.

Associated Press

and the Avalanche won the Cup in 2001, and he brought it back to Boston for a celebration at City Hall Plaza. At that point, Boston was happy to celebrate a surrogate championship. The Red Sox were still stuck in their decades-long drought, and Brady's first Super Bowl wasn't until months later.

Karl Malone was hoping for a triumphant ending when he signed with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2003 after 18 stellar seasons in Utah. But he came up just short in his quest for a title when the Lakers lost to Detroit in the 2004 NBA Finals.

## HOME RUN KINGS

Hank Aaron spent most of his career with the Braves — in both Milwaukee and Atlanta. He ended up

back in Milwaukee when the Braves traded him to the Brewers after the 1974 season. Aaron played two seasons for the Brewers, and although his offensive numbers dipped considerably, he was an All-Star in 1975.

Babe Ruth started his career with the Boston Red Sox, but he became one of the game's greatest sluggers with the New York Yankees. Ruth's final season was as a member of the Boston Braves in 1935. Ruth was a shell of his former self, but he did hit the last three homers of his career in one game at Pittsburgh's Forbes Field.

For years, Willie Mays trailed only Aaron and Ruth on the career home run list. Mays hit many of his 660 hom-

ers with the Giants in New York and San Francisco. The Mets brought him back to New York when they traded for him in 1972. He finished his career there in 1973, hitting just .211.

## OUT OF RETIREMENT

It's not really the same as Brady's situation — because there were some gap years in between — but it certainly was strange seeing Michael Jordan in a Washington uniform when he began playing again in 2001. Jordan had retired after winning a sixth NBA title with the Chicago Bulls in 1998, but he became president of basketball operations in Washington and eventually returned to the court to play for the Wizards for two seasons.

Gordie Howe also came

out of retirement. The longtime star of the Detroit Red Wings returned to play at age 45 with his sons Mark and Marty in the WHA. In 1973-74, his first season in the WHA, Howe was named league MVP and led the Houston Aeros to the championship. Howe remained in the WHA for a while and even returned to the NHL, playing for the Hartford Whalers in the 1979-80 season.

## OTHER QBs

There were some similarities between Peyton Manning's departure from Indianapolis and Montana's move to Kansas City. Manning missed the whole 2011 season for Indianapolis because of neck issues, and the Colts had a chance to take Andrew Luck with the top pick in the next draft. Manning wasn't traded like Montana. He was cut, and he then joined the Denver Broncos and eventually won a Super Bowl with them.

Brett Favre's run in Green Bay ended shortly before the 2008 season when he was traded to the New York Jets. The Packers moved on with Aaron Rodgers, and after one season with the Jets, Favre returned to Green Bay's division, playing his final two seasons with the Minnesota Vikings.

## COACHING MOVES

Coaches and managers also develop bonds with certain organizations and cities, but occasionally they end up in new spots toward the end of their careers. Vince Lombardi won two Super Bowls with Green Bay, but after a season away from coaching, he went to Washington and was the coach there for one season in 1969.

Casey Stengel managed four teams, most notably the New York Yankees during a stretch when they won the World Series seven times in 10 years. He was fired after a loss in the 1960 World Series but resurfaced as the manager of the expansion Mets in 1962. Stengel's charming wit became a big part of those early years for the Mets, when victories were rare. □

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/



In this Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley II carries against the San Francisco 49ers during the first half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif. Associated Press

## Los Angeles Rams release running back Todd Gurley

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles Rams have released Todd Gurley, their superstar running back with a massive contract and a troubling injury history.

The Rams made the move Thursday, several minutes before \$10.5 million in the three-time Pro Bowl selection's contract became fully guaranteed.

The Rams also cut veteran linebacker Clay Matthews after just one season with his hometown club. Matthews was due a \$2 million roster bonus, among other guarantees.

Gurley will consume a whopping \$20.15 million in dead salary cap space this season for the Rams, who signed the 2015 first-round pick to a four-year, \$60 million contract with \$45 million guaranteed in June 2018. Gurley was cut before even playing the first year of that extension, which made him the highest-paid running back in the NFL at the time.

Gurley had phenomenal seasons during his first two years in coach Sean McVay's offense, rushing for 1,305 yards in 2017 and 1,251 in 2018 as those Rams reached the Super Bowl. He was voted the AP's Offensive Player of the Year in 2017 after racking up 2,093 yards from scrimmage and 19 touchdowns.

But Gurley had a persistent left knee injury that limited

his effectiveness down the stretch in 2018, and those problems carried over to last season.

He rushed for a career-low 857 yards last year while playing sparingly, although McVay never acknowledged it was because of Gurley's knee issue. Gurley claimed ignorance about the reasons for his lack of action, including a career-low 223 carries and just 31 receptions, his lowest total since his rookie year.

So the Rams are cutting ties with one of the most effective running backs of the NFL's last half-decade.

Gurley is tops in the NFL with 58 rushing touchdowns since he joined the league in 2015. His 5,404 yards rushing are second most in the league over the past half-decade, barely behind Dallas' Ezekiel Elliott (5,405). The Rams attempted to find trade partners to take Gurley, but his exorbitant contract apparently made it impossible. Instead of keeping one of their biggest stars as they move into new SoFi Stadium this season, the Rams let Gurley go.

The Rams are just beginning to get the bills for their spending spree over the past two years while trying to win now under McVay. Los Angeles went 9-7 last season but missed the playoffs after winning the previous two NFC West titles. □



In this Jan. 11, 2020, file photo, San Francisco 49ers defensive end Arik Armstead, left, and defensive tackle DeForest Buckner (99) react to a play against the Minnesota Vikings during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game in Santa Clara, Calif. Associated Press

## 49ers do best to keep NFC title winning roster intact

By **JOSH DUBOW**  
AP Pro Football Writer

After coming within one quarter of winning the Super Bowl, the task for the San Francisco 49ers in free agency was more about keeping pieces in place rather than finding upgrades.

They kept starting defensive lineman Arik Armstead and safety Jimmie Ward off the open market with long-term deals and brought back key reserves like defensive lineman Ronald Blair and offensive linemen Ben Garland and Shon Coleman.

Those moves all came at a price as the Niners traded star defensive tackle DeForest Buckner to Indianapolis for the No. 13 overall pick and might not have enough salary cap room to keep free agent receiver Emmanuel Sanders.

But with almost every other starter from last season's NFC champions still under contract, the 49ers are hoping to avoid the plight of many Super Bowl runners up who struggled even to make it back to the playoffs the following season. The Niners blew a 10-point

lead in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl last month before losing 31-20 to Kansas City.

The team's biggest moves came in succession just after the start of open negotiating window on Monday when the Niners locked up Armstead with a five-year contract worth up to \$85 million and then almost immediately traded Buckner to the Colts for a premium draft pick.

Buckner, who was entering the final year of his contract, then agreed to an \$84 million, four-year contract with the Colts, a price the Niners weren't willing to pay for the player voted MVP of the team coaching staff this past season.

Coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch ultimately decided that keeping Armstead and getting the first-round pick was preferable then doing a long-term deal with Buckner.

Whether that proves to be the right decision remains to be seen. Buckner has been the team's most consistent player since being drafted seventh overall in 2016.

He has been extremely durable, missing only one game in four seasons and having the third-most defensive snaps among linemen since 2016. His 143 quarterback pressures are the fifth-most among all interior linemen over the past four years, according to NFL NextGen stats.

Buckner had a career-high 12 sacks in 2018 and then had 7 1/2 last season as part of perhaps the league's top defensive line with Armstead and edge rushers Nick Bosa and Dee Ford. Armstead had a breakthrough season in 2019, leading to his new contract. He was a first-round pick by San Francisco in 2015, but didn't make a big impact in his first four seasons in the NFL as he dealt with injuries that limited his playing time in 2016 and 2017 and tried to find the right fit for his skills.

It all came together last season under a simpler scheme put in place by new defensive line coach Kris Kocurek. Armstead led the Niners with 10 sacks after getting only nine in 46 games over his first four seasons. □

# AP sources: MLB could skip draft; service time big issue

By **RONALD BLUM**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Baseball is considering skipping its amateur draft this year and putting off the next international signing period as a way to preserve cash while games are affected by the new coronavirus, people familiar with the discussions told The Associated Press.

Talks between management and the players' association are ongoing and include the contentious issue of major league service time, which determines eligibility for free agency and salary arbitration. MLB has proposed crediting full service for 130 games or more and proportional service for a shorter season, the people said on condition of anonymity because those details have not been made public.

The union has taken the position that a full season of service should be credited even if no games are played, one of the people said.

Scheduling has been left open since there is no way to determine when the season could start.

Opening day has been pushed back from March 26 to mid-May at the earliest, and both sides are committed to playing as many games as possible.



A closed sign is displayed on the Pittsburgh Pirates spring training baseball gift shop at LECOM Park, Monday, March 16, 2020, in Bradenton, Fla.

Associated Press

Some radical solutions, such as more doubleheaders and playing deep into autumn by using enclosed stadiums and warm-weather sites, have not been thoroughly discussed yet.

With the prospect of expected cash not coming in from tickets, broadcast and sponsorship contracts, teams have told the commissioner's office they are fearful they may have to lay off administrative staff. Signing bonuses for amateur players total about

\$400 million annually. Baseball moved the first round of the draft to Omaha, Nebraska, ahead of the College World Series in June, but the CWS was canceled last week. The international signing period runs from July 2 to June 15. While bonus rules for the draft and international players are part of the collective bargaining agreement, management could attempt to cite the national emergency as reason to make unilateral changes.

With a Republican administration in Washington, the union would have a difficult path with a legal challenge before the National Labor Relations Board.

The sides also are discussing whether MLB would advance money to players, who get paid only during the regular season. The Uniform Player's Contract has a provision allowing the baseball commissioner to suspend the deal during any national emergency when Major League Base-

ball is not played.

How much money would be advanced and which players the money would go to are also a part of the negotiation. Advances could go to the entire 40-man roster or a subset.

Also under discussion is the union's desire to have players receive allowance money, even if they have returned home from spring training.

Among the other issues are adjusting salaries, luxury tax rules, revenue sharing and performance bonuses thresholds in the event of a season of fewer than 162 games, and relaxing schedule and roster rules.

Getting money to players with minor league contracts, who are not covered by the union, is likely to be decided later by MLB. The sides also are discussing a transaction freeze.

Some players are still using their team's spring training facilities, but the Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks will no longer hold voluntary workouts at their shared Salt River Fields complex in Arizona. The teams are leaving after a decision by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to temporarily cease operations in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. □

## Red Sox ace Chris Sale to have Tommy John surgery

By **JIMMY GOLEN**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale will have Tommy John surgery on his left elbow, an operation that would keep him out the entire 2020 baseball season if and when it resumes after the coronavirus pandemic.

The team made the announcement on Thursday, two weeks after saying that the left-hander who turns 31 later this month had a flexor strain near the elbow. At the time, the Red Sox hoped Sale would avoid the operation that usually requires a full year of recovery.

Opening day, originally scheduled for next week,



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale throws during spring training baseball camp Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla.

Associated Press

has been pushed back until at least mid-May due to the coronavirus out-

break. Sale missed the start of spring training with an illness that the team

described as a flu that morphed into pneumonia. A Red Sox spokesman did not immediately respond to an email asking if Sale has been tested for COVID-19.

Sale is 109-73 in 10 major league seasons and is entering the second season of a six-year, \$160 million contract. After helping the Red Sox win the 2018 World Series, he went 6-11 with a 4.40 ERA in 25 starts last year, his fewest wins and starts and highest ERA in a full season since 2012.

After his illness set back his pitching schedule, he threw his first batting practice of the spring on March 4; a day later, he reported

discomfort in his pitching elbow. The team said then there had been no additional damage to his ulnar collateral ligament, which was treated with a platelet-rich plasma injection in August.

Sale's season last year ended after a start on Aug. 13. "Tommy John's been a factor in my life for 20 years now," Sale said earlier this month. "It's on the table, but it's always been on the table. So, that's not something I'm going to worry myself with. I can't go out there with that in the back of my mind. I have to have the confidence that what we're doing is going to work." □



InterMiami co-owner David Beckham, right, talks with head coach Diego Alonso during an MLS training session, Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

## MLS targets May 10 return, considers extending into December

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Soccer is targeting a May 10 return to play and will consider pushing back its championship game by a month into December. After announcing a 30-day suspension last week because of the new coronavirus, the league said Thursday it will follow last weekend's recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to not hold events involving more than 50 people for eight weeks. "MLS remains focused on playing the entire 2020 season and is evaluating all options, including pushing back the end of the sea-

son and playing MLS Cup in December, as the league did prior to the 2019 season," the league said in a statement. The MLS championship game had been scheduled for Nov 7. On its website, the league announced the May 10 target for a return date. Teams have played two matches in their 34-game, regular-season league schedule. Inter Miami, the expansion team co-owned by former England captain David Beckham, had been preparing for its home opener at its temporary stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. □

## Atlanta United star Josef Martinez undergoes knee surgery

By PAUL NEWBERRY

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Atlanta United star Josef Martinez underwent surgery on his right knee Wednesday, more than two weeks after he tore the ACL during the league-opening match at Nashville.

Martinez posted an update on his Instagram page after the operation at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The striker was smiling and giving a thumbs-up as he posed in his bed alongside one of his physicians, Dr. Volker Musahl.

Also performing the surgery was Dr. Freddie Fu, the Pittsburgh-based orthopedic specialist who was hailed for saving Zlatan Ibrahimović's career after the star striker ruptured knee ligaments in 2017. Martinez was injured Feb. 29 in a 2-1 victory over Nashville to open the Major League Soccer season. He is expected to be out for much of the year, though the season is now on hold because of the new coronavirus outbreak.

"In the midst of the humanitarian crisis we are all living through, in which more than ever we need to think about and take care of each other, just wanted



Atlanta United players hold a Josef Martinez jersey representing the injured player as they take the field to play FC Cincinnati in an MLS soccer match Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

to share that I'm blessed that my knee surgery today went well," Martinez wrote. The 26-year-old Venezuelan went on to thank the hospital, his doctors, his teammates "and most of all the city of Atlanta for the unconditional support. Also, everyone in Venezuela and around the world for the good wishes and support. God bless and protect us all in these challenging times." Martinez, the league's 2018 MVP and one of its most dynamic offensive players, scored two goals in a two-legged victory over Honduran club Motagua in

the opening round of the CONCACAF Champions League. After he was injured, United played two more games — a 2-1 victory over Cincinnati in the MLS home opener and a 3-0 loss at Mexican powerhouse América in the opening leg of the CONCACAF quarterfinals — before all competitions were halted for at least a month in an effort to stem the virus from spreading. It could take up to six months for Martinez to recover from his injury, which means he might be able to return before the end of the season. □

## A day after musher wins Iditarod, others face woes on trail

By MARK THIESSEN

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)** — Nearly a third of the 57 mushers in this year's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race have quit the race before finishing, including a musher who activated an alert button seeking rescue Thursday morning because of weather conditions. Thomas Waerner of Norway won this year's race, crossing the finish line in Nome, Alaska, early Wednesday. Eighteen other mushers have completed the race by Thursday morning with another 20 still on the trail. For musher Nicolas Petit, a native of France who now

lives in Girdwood, Alaska, it's the third straight year he's encountered problems late in the race, including getting lost in a blizzard two years ago and his dogs quitting on him last year. Petit on Thursday activated his alert button between the checkpoints of Elim and White Mountain, which is the second-to-last checkpoint in the race. "In combination of weather and resulting trail conditions, Petit was not able to continue, and by activating his SOS, Petit scratched," the Iditarod said in a statement. Race marshal Mark Nor-

dman reports the area was experiencing a large coastal storm, which was affecting the trail. A search and rescue team helped Petit and his dog team to a shelter cabin. Nordman spoke to Petit on a satellite phone to confirm that both the musher and his team of 11 dogs were fine. Petit told him he intends to wait out the storm at the cabin, and then then mush to either Elim or White Mountain to arrange transport off the trail. Two years ago, Petit had a healthy lead in the race until he got lost in blizzard in



In this March 20, 2019, file photo, Iditarod musher Nicolas Petit, of France, poses with two of his dogs in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

another Being Sea coastal storm. He recovered to finish second. Last year, his dogs quit running in nearly the same location as 2018. He blamed it on the dogs having a bad memory from getting lost

there the year before. This year's race started March 8 in Willow for 57 mushers. Since then, 17 have voluntarily withdrawn from the race and one was removed for not being competitive. □

# Shut-out by virus, gamblers turning to online betting

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)**

— Some gamblers who suddenly can't go to a casino to play slot machines, cards or roulette are migrating to internet casinos as the coronavirus shuts down most things involving large gatherings.

As of Tuesday, casinos in about three dozen states had either been shut down by government order or done so voluntarily.

So far, just a handful of states offer internet gambling for casino games or poker: New Jersey, Nevada, Delaware and Pennsylvania; others offer online betting on sports, but that market has dried up virtually overnight as most major professional and college sports have shut down due to the virus.

Online gambling providers say they're seeing a significant spike in volume and revenue in recent days. FOX Bet says its online casino and poker operations have doubled the rate at which it is adding new customers in the last week.

"When the NBA shut down, we really saw a sharp increase since that date," said Robin Chhabra, FOX Bet's CEO. "We're seeing a very strong shift to poker and online casino."

Likewise, Rush Street In-



In this Nov. 21, 2013 file photo, Joseph Brennen of Ventnor N.J., logs on to a Harrah's online casino on his laptop from a highway rest area in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. on the first day of a test of Internet gambling in New Jersey.

Associated Press

teractive, which runs the PlaySugarHouse.com and BetRivers.com online sites, says it has seen an increase in business, which it hopes will make up for at least some of the lost revenue from real-world casinos.

"It is still early and we are expecting the uptick to continue in the next few days," said Mattias Stetz, the company's chief operating officer.

Resorts Casino also has seen a "noticeable" in-

crease in online gambling in recent days, according to President Mark Giannantonio.

Since it debuted in November 2013, internet gambling has soared in New Jersey. Last year, Atlantic City casinos won nearly \$483 million online, an increase of nearly 62% over 2018 levels. Including in-person casino games and sports betting money, the casinos won \$3.46 billion last year.

David Schwartz, a gam-

bling historian with the University of Nevada Las Vegas, said additional states could move to adopt internet gambling, depending on how streamlined the legislative process becomes. If a provision making it easier to offer online gambling were included in the relief package being put together by Congress, that could lead to an expansion of online gambling, though there has been no indication yet that such a provi-

sion is under consideration. The Golden Nugget is New Jersey's leader in internet gambling revenue, winning over \$177 million last year. It, too, is seeing a virus-related bump in its online numbers, with a 20% increase in new player signups this month, according to Thomas Winter, Golden Nugget's senior vice president and general manager of online gambling.

"This is definitely the best alternate option we can offer to our live casino players," he said.

Hard Rock Atlantic City recently debuted remote-controlled slot machines in a room just at the casino that players can activate and play from home. It also offers traditional internet gambling. But like most casino executives, Hard Rock president Joe Lupo isn't expecting online revenue to increase enough to begin to make up for lost in-person revenue.

"This is not like a snowstorm that will end in 48 hours," he said. "This is so unprecedented and the timetable is simply unknown as to when employment and the economy rebounds."

For most people, the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. □



This April 3, 2019, file photo shows a preview image of the upcoming film "Toy Story 4" on state during the Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures presentation at CinemaCon 2019, the official convention of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

By TALI ARBEL  
AP Technology Writer

The technology that animated movies like "Toy Story" and enabled a variety of special effects is the focus of this year's Turing Award, the technology in-

dustry's version of the Nobel Prize.

Patrick Hanrahan and Edwin Catmull won the prize for their contributions to 3-D computer graphics used in movies and video games. Edwin Catmull was hired

## Computer-graphics pioneers win tech's Turing prize

by legendary filmmaker George Lucas to head the computer-technology division that became Pixar when Apple founder Steve Jobs bought it. Patrick Hanrahan was one of Catmull's early hires at Pixar, now part of Disney.

Together, the two worked on techniques that made graphics in movies like "Toy Story" look more lifelike, even though Hanrahan left Pixar years before the studio released that film. Catmull is the former president of Pixar and worked there for more than three decades.

"What makes skin look like

skin? What makes a tree look like a tree?"

You have to understand the structure of material and how light interacts with it," Hanrahan said in an interview with The Associated Press. Only then is it possible to translate that understanding of how the physics of curved surfaces — our hands, our noses — works with light into the 100,000-plus frames that make up a movie.

Hanrahan's "RenderMan" software helped produce "Toy Story" in 1995 and then a string of Pixar films like "Up," "Monsters Inc.," "Finding Nemo" and "Wall-E." It

was also the backbone of CGI special effects in live-action movies such as "Titanic" and the "Lord of the Rings" films.

The Association for Computing Machinery, which awards the prize, says filmmakers used RenderMan software in nearly all of the last 47 movies nominated for a visual effects Academy Award.

The technology has also indirectly helped the artificial-intelligence field. The chips that were developed for video-game graphics were so powerful that they could then be used to train AI algorithms. □



## Take the credit card you can get, work toward one you want

By **BEV O'SHEA** ofNerdWallet

Trying to choose a credit card can feel like deciding who to swipe right on in a dating app — especially if you're new to the game or have been out of it for a while.

With both, you might revise your wish list of qualities if the pool of possibilities is smaller than you had hoped. Unlike dating, however, the advice to "just get out there and try" isn't useful with credit cards. Lots of applications close together hurt your credit.

But focusing on a card you can get will help you build a strong credit history and eventually qualify for one you want.

### FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF CUSTOMER THEY WANT

Credit cards are marketed to specific audiences — there are cards for people recovering from mistakes, cards where you earn rewards for travel and cards that won't charge you a fee the first time you pay late.

First, find out how creditors will see you. If you don't know your credit score, you can check it for free at several personal finance websites or you may have access to scores through a credit card issuer or bank.

If you're unsure what credit scores are acceptable for a particular card, call the issuer and ask, says Kelley C. Long, a certified financial planner in Chicago.

Cards that allow you to earn rewards or cards offer-

ing 0% APR for transferred balances typically go to customers with good credit profiles. If the card you want is out of reach, apply instead for a card that is marketed to customers similar to you.

### HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR ODDS

A qualifying score is often just the first hurdle in getting approved for credit. Income, debt obligations, credit age and history can also play a role.

Still, there are ways to tilt the odds in your favor, says Leslie H. Tayne, a financial attorney in the Long Island, New York, area.

— Request your free credit reports from [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) and check for mistakes. Dispute errors that could be holding your score down, such as an account that isn't yours and shows credit missteps.

— Build a savings account. It won't directly affect your score, Tayne says, but it can affect whether you are approved and for how much. "Money in the bank is super key to lending," she says. "They want to see security so you don't have to go to credit if there's some change in your circumstances. Money in the bank can help you improve your odds."

**IF YOU'RE A CREDIT NEWBIE** If you don't have enough of a track record to qualify for credit, you can get on the radar by:

— Becoming an authorized user on someone else's credit card. That lets you



This Aug. 11, 2019 file photo shows Visa credit cards in New Orleans.

Associated Press

benefit from their credit history, so ask someone with a long record of on-time payments.

— Taking out a credit-builder loan. Unlike traditional loans, you get the cash after the loan has been paid off, which minimizes the lender's risk.

— Getting a secured credit card by putting down a cash deposit.

You should have a VantageScore in a couple of months and a FICO score, the kind used for most credit decisions, in about six months. Being added as an authorized user to an established account can speed up the process, says Can Arkali, senior director of Scores and Predictive

Analytics at FICO.

Don't expect excellent credit right away, because your score is based in part on the age of your accounts. You can't do anything about the time it takes to build credit, so focus on factors within your power.

"Something you can control is paying bills on time every month," Long says. Paying on time and using a small portion of your limit are the most important of the factors that influence your credit score.

### IF YOU'RE RECOVERING FROM MISTAKES

While it's easier to start with a clean slate, it's possible to rebound from major slips. You can use a secured

card or credit-builder loan to add more positive information to your credit reports. Also:

— Keep credit accounts open unless there is a compelling reason to close them, like a high annual fee.

— Look for cards or loans marketed to people with low credit scores.

If there is an option for prequalification, take it, says Long, who serves as a volunteer consumer financial advocate with the American Institute of CPAs. While prequalification doesn't guarantee your application will be approved, being unable to prequalify is a strong signal you shouldn't apply. □

## Nikki Haley resigns from Boeing board over airlines bailout

By **MEG KINNARD**  
Associated Press

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)** — Former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley has resigned from the board of Boeing Co., cutting ties with a company she long supported as South Carolina governor because of her opposition to a bailout of the airplane manufacturer that is in the works amid the growing coronavirus outbreak.

"I strongly believe that when one is part of a team, and one cannot in good

faith support the direction of the team, then the proper thing to do is to resign," Haley wrote to Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun and board chairman Larry Kellner, in a letter dated March 16 and provided Thursday to The Associated Press. "As such, I hereby resign my position from the Boeing Board."

Earlier this week, Boeing said it was seeking \$60 billion in federal aid for itself and its supply chain, both of which are struggling amid the COVID-19 out-

break, which has halted major travel and shuttered many businesses. The Trump administration has said it would back Boeing, which is also a top U.S. defense contractor.

Haley, 48, joined the Boeing board last year after her departure from President Donald Trump's administration. Popular in her home state, Haley moved back to South Carolina — where Boeing has a major production facility — founded a nonprofit organization,

and wrote and promoted a memoir. At the time, she said unions weren't need-

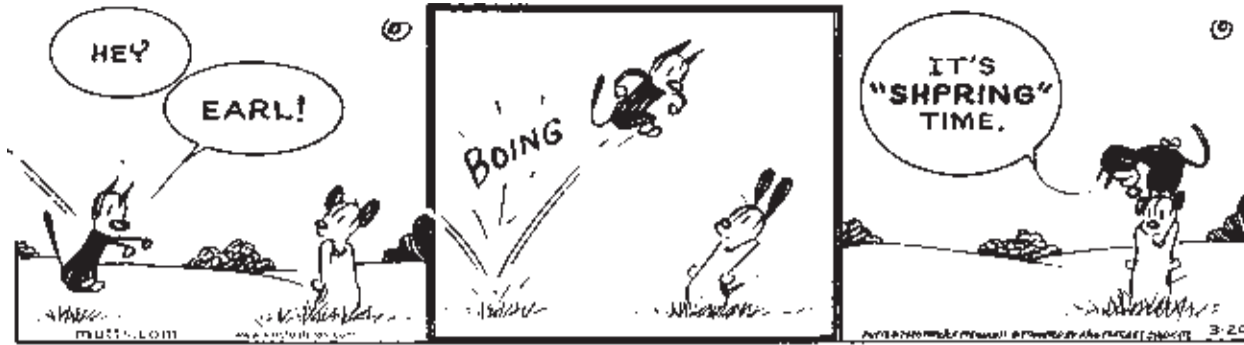
ed because companies in her state take care of their workers. □




Extend your stay at

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms). Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets. Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 Large Supermarkets. Feel Free to contact or visit us. Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697  
Calls from USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095 (toll free)  
Calls from The Netherlands: 085-009-0218 (toll free)  
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba  
Email: [info@arubaqualityapartments.com](mailto:info@arubaqualityapartments.com)  
Website: [www.arubaqualityapartments.com](http://www.arubaqualityapartments.com)

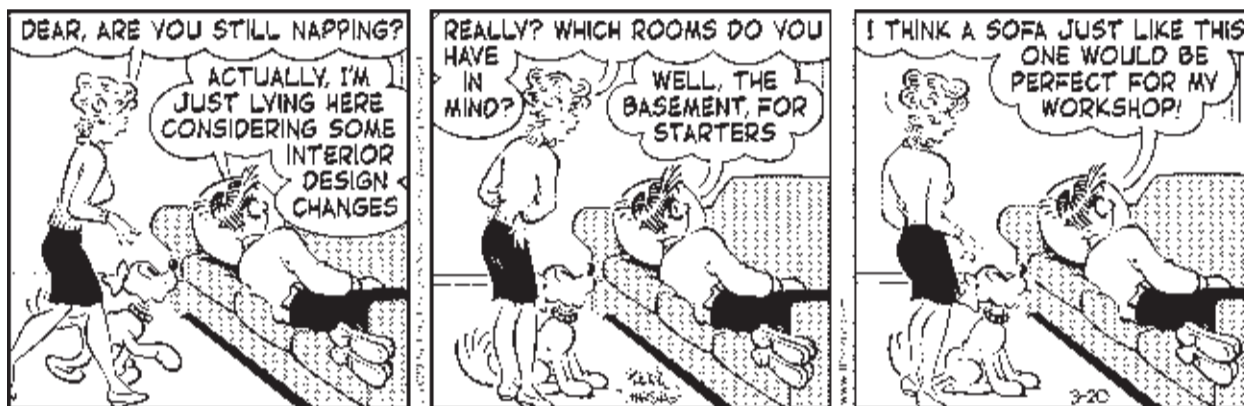
**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

3								
	9	2		2		8		6
		6	4			9	1	
		3	8			7	9	
	5	8					6	9
2				7		3		4

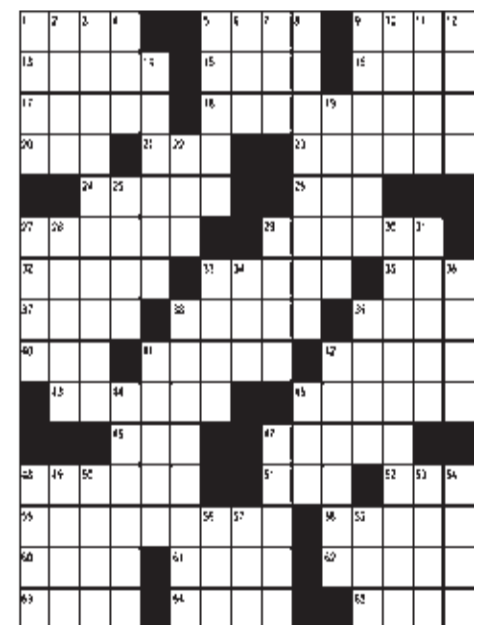
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	1	7	4	6	9	5	3	8
3	9	5	2	1	8	6	4	7
4	6	8	3	7	5	9	1	2
1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9	5
9	8	4	1	5	6	7	2	3
5	7	2	8	9	3	1	6	4
6	2	3	9	8	7	4	5	1
8	4	9	5	3	1	2	7	6
7	5	1	6	4	2	3	8	9

- ACROSS**
- 1 Break under pressure
  - 5 Complete failure
  - 9 Du-colored
  - 13 Yoke, small-town resident
  - 15 Long snapper's headache
  - 15 Hindi crone
  - 17 Mom's brother
  - 18 Alike
  - 20 "whiz"
  - 21 Vr Pororo Head cart
  - 23 Fresh
  - 24earer to the ground
  - 28 Intense anger
  - 27 Fight sites
  - 29 Arcuous
  - 32 Gullt prey
  - 33 Health spa feature
  - 35 Do a yard chore
  - 37 An apple keeps the
  - 38 Vary
  - 39 Cowboy coat: spike
  - 40 Fish trap
  - 41 Wanders
  - 42 \_ change
  - 43 Compensates
  - 45 Become sick
  - 46 To each own
  - 47 Civil disturbances
  - 48 Chevy passenger car
  - 51 Tallcoist's fluid
  - 52 A larvov
  - 55 Comforts
  - 58 Receded
  - 60 In days gone by
  - 61 Give in, submit
  - 62 Regred
  - 63 Bankers
  - 64 Lamb bearers
  - 65 Cruz & Knight



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/20/20

- DOWN**
- 1 Hit with the fist
  - 2 Vay; a one
  - 3 Speed up
  - 4 Homoeoy
  - 5 Avator
  - 6 Can loc
  - 7 Half and half
  - 8 Payments for retirees
  - 9 Actress Yvonne
  - 10 Rat: iday
  - 11 Slightly open
  - 12 Burd'e of hay
  - 14 Wagg e room
  - 19 rma; dry land
  - 22 Okeydokey
  - 25 No more than
  - 27 As sturdy oak
  - 28 More: I-
  - 29 Wheel centers
  - 30 Out of the question
  - 31 Throw water or a fire
  - 33 North & Baltic
  - 34 Short, stout, often
  - 36 Sma songbird
  - 38 Teriyaki marinade
  - 39 Separate as
  - 41 Train tracks
  - 42 Attractive woman
  - 44 out; eliminates
  - 45 Finish first
  - 47 Feeds the alarm
  - 48 Goffer's choice
  - 49 Water's handout
  - 50 Covenant
  - 53 Notable feat
  - 54 Chances
  - 56 Uncooked
  - 57 First lady
  - 58 However

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

C	R	I	S	T	A	G	S	E	B	B	S		
B	O	O	P	T	R	I	A	L	L	U	A	U	
S	A	G	E	R	U	M	B	A	D	O	L	E	
D	I	S	M	I	S	S	E	S	E	S	E	D	
K	E	P	T	H	A	S							
P	R	A	I	S	E	P	R	I	N	T	E	R	
R	A	G	E	S	G	R	A	N	D	L	O	W	
O	V	E	R	W	R	O	N	G	M	A	Y	A	
B	E	N	F	A	I	N	T	S	A	T	A	N	
E	N	T	E	R	I	N	G	R	E	P	E	L	S
S	I	T	V	E	E	P							
T	I	C	S	R	E	L	A	P	S	I	N	G	
H	O	R	A	R	E	X	I	L	E	N	O	O	
A	W	A	Y	S	A	M	O	A	G	I	N	A	
N	A	B	S	S	M	A	R	T	R	E	N		

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC  
All Rights Reserved 3/20/20

# Review: Mackie leads a little-known story in 'The Banker'

LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

"The Banker" is an odd title for this film. It has the effect of underselling a fascinating story about a black business savant that was inspired by real events. In the 1950s and early 1960s, Bernard Garrett (Anthony Mackie) became a real estate mogul in Los Angeles and (eventually) the owner of a bank in his Texas hometown at a time when all the cards were stacked against him. At the very least, "The Banker" doesn't seem like the best way to describe Bernard, his accomplishments or even reflect what it's about: the de facto and legal ways that African American were excluded from fairly participating in real estate and business.

That's all to say, don't let it dissuade you from giving this solid film a chance when it hits AppleTV Plus on Friday. Directed by George Nolfi ("The Adjustment Bureau"), "The Banker" is a fairly traditional biopic with a civil rights bent and some caper elements. With lush period costuming and a terrific cast, including Mackie, Samuel L. Jackson as his business partner Joe Morris, Nia Long as Bernard's wife Eunice and Nicholas Hoult, it might just be the perfect easy watch for anyone looking for fresh streaming content.

We're introduced to Bernard as a precocious youngster living in 1930s Texas.

He's ambitious and self-taught and eavesdrops on the men whose shoes he's shining to learn some business acumen. His father

**CASA DEL MAR 2BR/2B**  
Weeks 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);  
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);  
Week 9/1218 (15k);  
Week 10/1207 (15k);  
Weeks 11&12/1419 (13k/Wk.);  
Week 13/1509 (13k);  
Week 14/1308 (13k);  
Week 15/1217 (10k).  
Weeks 1-6 also available!  
CDMOwner@gmail.com  
U.S. (860)992-3890



This image released by Apple TV Plus shows, Anthony Mackie, from left, Nia Long, Samuel L. Jackson and Nicholas Hoult in a scene from "The Banker."

Associated Press

commends his intellect but advises him to dream smaller.

The film then cuts to 1954

Los Angeles where Bernard, always bedecked in a well-fitted suit, goes on the hunt for investment properties. □

## Halley Time Travel

### Marriott Ocean Club Platinum

1 BR Ocean view \$ 10K  
1 BR Ocean Front \$ 20 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K

### Marriott Surf Club Platinum

2 BR Ocean View \$16 K  
2 BR Ocean side \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$26K  
3 BR Ocean view \$28K

### Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11/12  
Building 9 on the 7th floor  
30 weeks remain \$35 K each  
1 BR wk 11  
Building 7 on the 3rd floor  
33 weeks remain \$14 K

### Divi Village

2 BR wk 13 \$13 K  
Building C 28weeks remain  
Casa del Mar  
1 BR wk 12 \$7500

### Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 11 \$9 K  
Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain  
1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each  
Birdie 10 ground floor  
33/34 weeks remain

### La cabana beach and casino

1 BR wk 11/12 \$8 5 K each  
4 th floor pool /Ocean  
Sunday check in

Dutch Village  
1 BR wk 9 old contract  
16 weeks remain \$7,5 K

### Caribbean palm village

1 BR wk 13 \$6K  
Second floor  
1 BR wk 14 \$6 K  
Ground floor

### Le Vent Condo

3 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K  
Sunsets Residence  
2 BR , 2 Bath \$360 K

### Property land

**Tibushie Wespunt**  
391 m2 \$110K  
Sero biento  
2640m2 \$ 220K  
Sobre Sta, Cruz  
1708 m2 \$122,5 K

### House For Sale

**Tibushie Wespunt**  
2 BR , 2 Bath  
Studio apartment  
pool \$325K

### House For Sale

Bubali 3 BR 2 Bath  
2BR 1 Bath pool \$670 K  
San Fuego National park  
3 BR 2 Bath \$250 K

Call: 630 1307

Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

www.bestbuyrealtor.com

# Classifieds

## EAGLE ARUBA RESORT

week 1,2,3,4+5,6

1 BR 1st floor \$6500

## Paradise Beach

week 50 Studio \$4000 each

2 BR wk 51-52 \$15000 each

Home 1518 537 6406

Cel. 1518 965 7878

After February 15, 2020

desankabubnjevic3@gmail.com

212406

# ARUBA TODAY

## Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.

Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668

Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.

Acc. #23951903

RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

## Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

## Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders

(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

## Editors

Richard Brooks

## Sales

Linda Reijnders

(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

## Columnists

Anthony Croes

Joris Zantvoort

Shanella Pantophlet

Steve Franceses

Thais Franken

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



# HEALTH

## DOCTOR ON DUTY

### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

### San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours  
Tel.524 8833

## PHARMACY ON DUTY

### Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz Tel. 585 6890

### San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto Tel. 584 4853

## OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

## EMERGENCY

Police 100

Oranjestad 527 3140

Noord 527 3200

Sta. Cruz 527 2900

San Nicolas 584 5000

Police Tipline 11141

Ambulancia 911

Fire Dept. 115

Red Cross 582 2219

## TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900

Prof. Taxi 588 0035

Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300

Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232

A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

## TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport 524 2424

American Airlines 582 2700

Avianca 588 0059

Jet Blue 588 2244

Surinam 582 7896

## CRUISES



## AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

## General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

# No family, fanfare for NASA astronaut launching next month

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
**AP Aerospace Writer**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.**  
**(AP)** — A NASA astronaut who's about to leave the planet for six months will blast off without any family or fanfare because of the coronavirus.

Chris Cassidy said Thursday that he won't have any guests at his April 9 launch from Kazakhstan. He expects to say goodbye in Russia to his wife, Julie, on Friday, three weeks earlier than planned.

Because of the coronavirus outbreak, she's going back home to Houston. One of their three children, meanwhile, is trying to get back to the U.S. from New Zealand.

There will be a smaller team than usual at the launch pad, too.

"It really is going to be strange," Cassidy told The Associated Press from cosmonaut headquarters in Star City, Russia.

He said he's already in quarantine ahead of his launch to the International Space Station.

"The things that are stressing the rest of the world and the rest of America, are the same things that are stressing me right now,"



In this image from video made available by NASA, astronaut Chris Cassidy speaks during an interview from cosmonaut headquarters in Star City, Russia, on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Associated Press

said Cassidy. "It's not like any other time in our lives as a generation, really, right?" said the 50-year-old Navy captain and former Navy SEAL. "I'll have my own interesting story to tell in years to come."

Cassidy is also dealing with a rare late-in-the-game crew switch. He'll spend 6 1/2 months on the space station with two Russians assigned to the flight just a month ago, after one of the original cosmonauts suffered an eye injury.

While training together to

catch up, Cassidy, Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner have been taking precautions to stay germ free, frequently washing their hands and keeping a safe distance from others.

The space station crew will drop from six to three a week after his arrival. It will remain at three people until SpaceX launches two NASA astronauts, as early as May, or another crew arrives on a Russian Soyuz capsule in the fall.

With only three people on board, it promises to be extraordinarily busy.

"That doesn't bother me at all," Cassidy told the AP. "In fact, I'm excited. Bring it on."

Cassidy, Ivanishin and Vagner leave Tuesday for the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. They will be isolated there in a special hotel for astronauts, as is customary. But on launch day, there won't be the usual cheering, back-slapping throngs of well-wishers or journalists either.

Their families, bosses and dozens of others normally jam a special room behind a glass wall while the astro-

nauts put on their space-suits before liftoff.

Not this time.

"We'll be looking through the glass at maybe one video camera or something like this and then we'll get on the bus" to go to a launch pad with a minimal team there, Cassidy said.

As for the Feb. 19 crew switch, Cassidy, from York, Maine, initially was "crushed" by the news. The former chief of NASA's astronaut corps and two-time space flier, Cassidy already knew the backup cosmonauts..

"So no issues there," he said. However, "my heart hurt for my two friends who thought they were so close to a rocket launch and were not going to get one," he told the AP.

Ivanishin, like Cassidy an experienced spaceman, said earlier this week that he's surprised to be suddenly rocketing away, "but life happens." He said the crew swap could have occurred even closer to launch and so the three have had "some time for the news to settle in."

Cassidy acknowledges his stress level is higher than usual right now from worrying about his loved ones. □



Italian Carabinieri police officers man a road block in Milan, Italy, Monday, March 16, 2020.

Associated Press

# As virus shuts down cities in Europe, pollution drops

**BERLIN (AP)** — The European Union's space agency's earth-observation satellites have detected a significant reduction in the pollutant nitrogen dioxide, a byproduct of the use of diesel motors and other human activities, in northern Italy as the advance of the COVID-19 has led to drastic

measures curtailing ordinary life.

The agency's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service reported Tuesday that with the "abrupt changes in activity levels" in northern Italy, it has tracked a "reduction trend" of nitrogen dioxide, or NO<sub>2</sub>, for the last four to five weeks.

So far, Italy has been the hardest hit country in Europe by the new coronavirus, and the government has implemented a wide lockdown, encouraging its 62 million people to stay home unless it's absolutely necessary to go out.

Similar drops in pollutants were detected in China after the government there

implemented widespread shutdowns to try and slow the spread of COVID-19.

NO<sub>2</sub> is a short-lived pollutant, staying in the atmosphere generally less than a day before being deposited or reacting with other gases, meaning it remains fairly close to where it was emitted, the agency said.

Most emissions are generated by human activities such as traffic, energy production, residential heating and industry.

"It is quite remarkable that a signal of decreasing activity levels could be detected," said Vincent-Henri Peuch, the director of the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service. □

**Honey Dolls**  
 MESSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE  
**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
**Pick-up & Delivery**  
 Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders **24/7**  
**+297 565-9535**  
**WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM**

**Hot Escort Aruba**  
 High Quality Model Escorts  
**www.HotEscortAruba.com**  
 HotEscortAruba@gmail.com  
 WhatsApp or Call 24/7  
**+297-5692030**

## Twilight Time: Long-lost Rod Serling baseball comedy on deck

By BEN WALKER  
AP Baseball Writer

Years before he journeyed to "The Twilight Zone," Rod Serling made a brief detour to the strike zone.

To many, he's the foreboding figure in black and white who gave the world the heebie-jeebies with those bizarre, mind-bending tales of cannibal aliens, talking dolls and phone calls from the grave.

Smoldering cigarette in hand, he unleashed macabre mayhem in a classic TV show that resonates decades later in endless reruns.

"That's how a lot of people pictured Dad," daughter Anne Serling said.

But, there was another dimension to Rod Serling: His love of baseball.

And Serling aficionados and sports fans will soon get a chance to experience it. Think there's no baseball on the radio? Think again.

"O'Toole From Moscow," a long-lost comedy Serling wrote about the national pastime, is on deck.

It's a screwball romp, with a side of whimsy: At the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, a Soviet Embassy worker fritters away time rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, then skips town with a comrade who suddenly becomes the greatest slugger ever for the Cincinnati Reds.

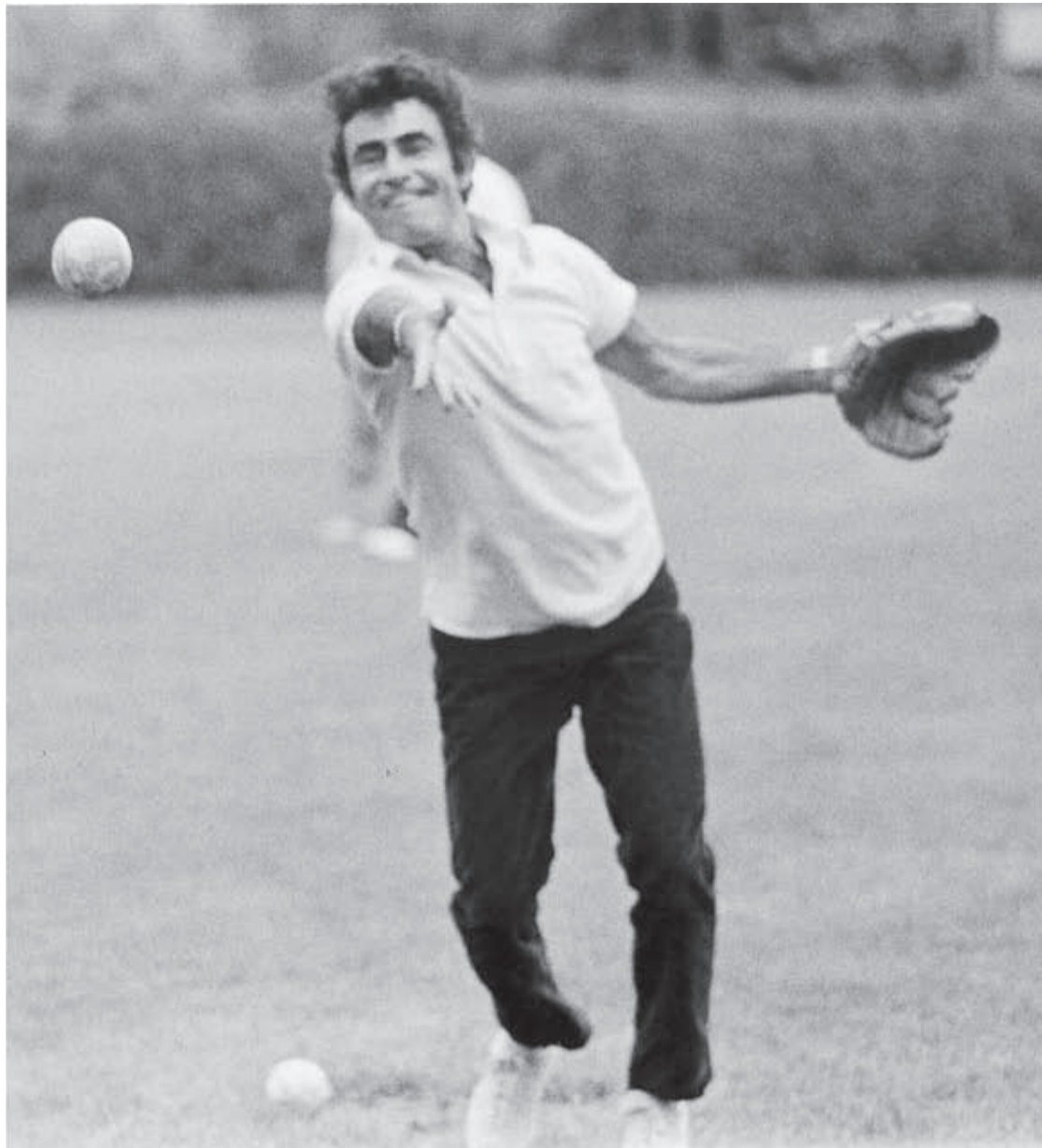
Serling's 1955 script, which was performed only once, is being brought to life in Cincinnati. A public radio station there will air it March 25, which originally was the eve of the opening day matchup between the host Reds and the St. Louis Cardinals, before the coronavirus prompted MLB postponements.

"Kind of a gift from my dad back in time," Anne said. "There is a magical quality to it, isn't there?"

"It's his voice," she said from her home in Ithaca, New York. "I could so much imagine my dad writing this."

Easily, in fact.

"There's a line in there: 'Give me a stick and I'll beat it to death.' That's an expression



This 1973 family photo provided by Anne Serling shows her father, television writer Rod Serling tossing a softball at a school his daughter attended, in Massachusetts.

Associated Press

he used all the time," she said. "There's so much of my dad in this. I can envision his words throughout this." Hers, too. Anne is the narrator and introduces the program, as the stage directions called for, "in clipped Rod Serling style."

The hour-long show is peppered with references to brawny Reds slugger Ted Kluszewski, Stan Musial, Willie Mays, Duke Snider and other stars of the day and begins at 8 p.m. Wednesday on WVXU-FM 91.7, with live streaming at wvxu.org. A twi-nighter, of sorts. OK, but why Cincinnati?

From 1950-54, Serling worked there for WLW, typing out promos, ads and other fixtures. At night, though, he wrote freelance scripts for local and national TV shows.

"O'Toole From Moscow" was televised live by "NBC Matinee Theater" on the afternoon of Dec. 12, 1955,

during the days of the Red Scare.

Famed big league manager Leo Durocher and John Banner, best known as Sergeant Schultz in "Hogan's Heroes," appeared in the show that featured Chuck Connors, the former major leaguer who later starred in the TV Western, "The Rifleman."

There are no known tapes or recordings of that show, which aired four years before Serling created "The Twilight Zone."

That's where John Kiesewetter got involved. The Serling fan, longtime Cincinnati Enquirer newspaperman and

current Media Beat blogger for WXVU first heard about the show in 1989 and was intrigued. He eventually tracked down the script and oversaw a project to adapt it for radio.

"Not many people can say they spent a summer rewriting Rod Serling," he kidded. Kiesewetter lined up the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music to provide actors, guided by CCM professor of acting and directing Richard Hess, and recorded the show in November.

Reds organist John Schutte was brought over from Great American Ball Park

to play "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," other stadium background and even a little Russian folk music. But none of those eerie echoes from "The Twilight Zone" theme.

Kiesewetter also went to a local gym where a couple guys hit with wood bats, recording the loud cracks with his phone to set the scene.

"The ball sounds like it's exploding," he said. "Great sound effect."

For Anne Serling, such sounds bring back fond memories of driving around the Los Angeles freeways with her dad, listening to a ballgame.

"He loved the Dodgers, hearing Vin Scully on the radio. I can recall him being quite enraged, slapping his palm against the wheel when things didn't go right for them."

Carl Erskine pitched for the Dodgers back then, starting in 1948 with Brooklyn. Now 93, the All-Star is prominently mentioned in this version of Serling's comedy. "Now that's a real script. That's amazing," Erskine said from his home in Anderson, Indiana. "I liked 'The Twilight Zone' and I remember the music that played behind it.

Nice to hear I'm in this one." □



# 'Downton Abbey' creator turns to the beautiful game

By **MARK KENNEDY**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With global soccer shut down these days, fans desperate for a fix of the beautiful game may find it from a rather unlikely source — the creator of the stately "Downton Abbey."

Julian Fellowes has created and co-written the new Netflix series "The English Game," a six-part look at the origins of a onetime British gentleman's game that has become the most popular sport on the planet. The series begins Friday. "There are certain sports that cut right through society and appeal to people at every level. And that seems to me to be a wholly good thing," Fellowes says.

The series is set in 1879 and focuses on the first full-time professional players and how they infused the game with new tactics and passing strategies. But this being a Fellowes project, there's plenty of drama off the pitch, too: the rise of both the working class and women's rights.

Fellowes actually knew little about the origins of soccer when he began the project, but he was aware of it's force firsthand: His son,



This image released by Netflix shows Kevin Guthrie, foreground center, and Edward Holcroft, background center, in a scene from "The English Game," a six-part drama charting the origins of soccer.

Peregrine, is a rabid fan of Manchester United and, as a boy, decorated his pillowcases, duvet covers and lampshades with the team's crest. Father and son attended games, and the elder Fellowes soon grew to admire the athleticism of the players.

"When you watch anything — and I do pretty well

mean anything — being done superbly, it generates an interest even in the hearts of someone who is not particularly concerned with that subject," he says. "Watching Man U coming down the pitch, running like a sort of Russian ballet, was extraordinary."

"The English Game" is based on real events and centers

on Fergus Suter, a Scott regarded as the first full-time professional. He was lured to the mill town of Darwin in England's Lancashire region to join the local team, the first player to earn a salary for his skill.

It was a time in England when the rules of soccer had been codified by the elite — bankers and lawyers

who wore white tie and tails for dinner and considered the game something only gentlemen participated in. But it was attracting fans across the social spectrum and especially finding root in industrial towns among factory workers. They were challenging the elite not just on the pitch but also in the streets, demanding better treatment, higher wages and unions.

What Fellowes found was that social changes in Britain at the time mirrored the changes in soccer, with each reinforcing each other. "I thought this is kind of playing out in miniature of what was happening in Western Europe on a grand scale."

On the pitch, working men from Lancashire teams like Blackburn Rovers were increasingly beating teams made up of upper crust Eton College alumni, using speed and passing to beat their better nourished class rivals.

Soccer was also helping industrial towns bind together, creating a sense of community and eventually spurring workers to demand changes together in the way they were treated. □

Associated Press

## Movie theaters request stimulus from Congress due to virus



Signs hang in the ticket window of a movie theater notifying customers that it is closed, Monday, March 16, 2020 in New York.

Associated Press

By **Jake Cole**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Faced with a lengthy shutdown due the coronavirus pandemic, movie theaters are requesting relief from the U.S. government.

The National Association of

Theater Owners, the trade group that represents most of the industry's cinemas, said Wednesday that it's asking for immediate federal help for its chains and its 150,000 employees. The theaters are requesting

loan guarantees for exhibitors, tax benefits for employees and funds to compensate for lost ticket sales and concessions.

The organization said the movie theater industry is "uniquely vulnerable" to the crisis, and needs assistance to weather a near total shutdown of two to three months.

"This is an unprecedented challenge to the business," said John Fithian, president and chief executive of NATO. "We're looking to Congress and White House to understand this is a cultural institution where people gather."

Fithian didn't give a specific dollar amount for what the industry is seeking but said theaters could be saved for a fraction of what the airline industry is requesting (The White House has pro-

posed \$50 billion for the airlines). For less than the cost of one airline company, Fithian said, movie theaters could be kept afloat.

"We want our policy makers to know that at the end of this thing, when people have been cooped up in their house for several months, they'll need a break to go out and do something collectively that's affordable and fun and away from what they've just been through," he said. "But we still need to be viable."

NATO also said it will supply \$1 million in aid for out-of-work movie theater employees. The majority of the industry's workers are paid hourly. "Starting tomorrow, most of them won't be paid anything," said Fithian. Earlier this week, U.S. movie theaters closed nation-

wide, shuttering nearly all of the country's cinemas including its largest chains, AMC Theaters and Regal Cinemas. The closures followed federal guidelines against gatherings of more than 10 people. Hollywood has postponed nearly all March and April releases, and many May ones, too.

In the meantime, some studios have moved their new releases to on-demand platforms, a rare breaking of the traditional 90-day theatrical window. Universal earlier announced that "The Hunt," "Invisible Man" and "Emma" will be released for home viewing on Friday. On Wednesday, Sony Pictures said the Vin Diesel sci-fi thriller "Bloodshot," which opened in theaters last Friday, will be available for digital purchase Tuesday. □

# Carlson says he felt obligation to meet with Trump on virus

By DAVID BAUDER

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fox News Channel's Tucker Carlson says he felt a "moral obligation" to meet with President Donald Trump and warn him personally about the seriousness of the coronavirus pandemic.

Carlson told Vanity Fair that "I didn't feel it was my role" but was convinced by his wife to meet with Trump at Mar-a-Lago on March 7. Two nights later on his Fox show, he issued a pointed warning to viewers to prepare for the coming storm. It speaks to both Fox News' influence with the president and his supporters that a cable news host was able to contact the White House and successfully request the two-hour meeting. Carlson drove to the president's resort from his Florida home, ironically on the day some guests at Mar-a-Lago were exposed to the virus. He declined a request to speak to The Associated Press about it on Wednesday, and the White House had no comment on a private meeting.

Carlson had sounded the alarm about the coronavirus on his show earlier than this month. On Jan. 28, he criticized the media for spending more time on the impeachment trial than the virus and, on Feb. 3, told



In this March 2, 2017 file photo, Tucker Carlson, host of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," poses for photos in a Fox News Channel studio, in New York.

Associated Press

viewers that "you should be concerned."

Yet his blunt March 9 commentary was eye-opening, particularly in how it contrasted with attitudes expressed by some Fox colleagues. At the same time as he was talking, Trish Regan on the sister Fox Business Network was denouncing the "coronavirus impeachment scam," suggesting the stories were an attempt to attack the president. Four days later, Fox shelved her show.

"People you know will get sick," Carlson said that night. "Some may die. This is real. That's the point of this script — to tell you that."

Carlson said the nation's leaders haven't helped citizens take it seriously, criticizing liberals for saying it was racist to refer to "The Chinese Coronavirus" — words displayed on the screen behind him.

"If we're being honest, the other side has not been especially helpful, either," Carlson said. "People you

trust — people you probably voted for — have spent weeks minimizing what is clearly a very serious problem. It's just partisan politics, they say, calm down. In the end this is just like the flu and people die of that every year."

It's not, he said, noting that the death rate for the coronavirus was much higher. He named no names. His fellow Fox News host, Sean Hannity, has repeatedly brought up seasonal flu in connection with the coro-

navirus, to the point where Dr. Anthony Fauci implored him last week not to ignore the new disease's lethality. Most people who get the coronavirus have only mild or moderate symptoms. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Fox confirmed that Carlson has not been tested for the disease and hasn't experienced any symptoms.

Carlson told Vanity Fair that he told Trump "exactly what I've said on TV, that this could be really bad." He hasn't talked about his meeting on television and wanted to keep it a secret, although it was revealed in a story by The New York Times.

After weeks of trying to downplay the risk of the coronavirus, Trump has taken a more urgent tone in recent days and led daily briefings with federal leaders about developments.

"I think a lot of people around him, and I mean broadly around him — particularly Republican members on Capitol Hill, in leadership, too — were determined to pretend this wasn't happening," he told the magazine. □

# Weinstein moved to state prison day before 68th birthday

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and TOM HAYS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Harvey Weinstein was transferred to a state prison in New York on Wednesday as he begins to serve a 23-year sentence for rape and sexual assault in his landmark #MeToo case.

The disgraced film mogul, who will turn 68 on Thursday, is locked up at the maximum security Wende Correctional Facility near Buffalo, according to state prison officials. He is known behind bars as inmate No. 20B0584.

The prison, six hours by car from Manhattan, is likely just a temporary stop for Weinstein. While he's there, he'll

be evaluated to determine which state prison facility meets his security, medical, mental health and other needs.

Weinstein's spokesman called the move "harsh." Weinstein, convicted Feb. 24 and sentenced last week, had been splitting time between New York City's notorious Rikers Island jail complex and a Manhattan hospital.

Weinstein left court in an ambulance after the guilty verdict and detoured to Bellevue Hospital, complaining of chest pains and high blood pressure. He later had a stent inserted to unblock an artery. After his sentencing, he returned with more chest pains.

Weinstein, the Oscar-winning producer of "Shakespeare in Love," was convicted of raping an aspiring actress in 2013 and forcibly performing oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006. His lawyers have said they'll appeal.

Within hours of Weinstein's sentencing, prosecutors in Los Angeles announced they were beginning the extradition process to send him there for an arraignment on charges he raped a woman and sexually assaulted another in 2013. That's now on hold because of the coronavirus crisis that has shuttered courthouses and limited travel.

For Weinstein, being sent to the Buffalo-area prison is



In this Feb. 24, 2020 file photo, Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse as jury deliberations continue in his rape trial in New York.

Associated Press

an inauspicious homecoming. He attended college nearby and got his start in the entertainment business

in the area as a concert promoter bringing the likes of Frank Sinatra and the Rolling Stones to town. □

# Finding joy indoors in troubled times, one leaf at a time

By **MOLLY SPRAYREGEN**

**Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — I have spent my first full week of isolation carefully observing one of my houseplants. Dylan, as my fiancée and I so fondly call her, has been growing new leaves at an uncharacteristically rapid rate.

It might be the longer hours of daylight. But I imagine Dylan's new zest for life also comes from the increased attention we've paid to her and the rest of our houseplants now that we're with them in our apartment 24/7. At a time when so little feels under control, one thing we know is up to us is the survival of these living things we have committed to taking care of.

We check on them more. We give them more water. Sometimes, we just stare at them, taking in the beauty and comfort they provide. When we first decided to take the leap into plant ownership, before the outbreak of the coronavirus, I simply wanted to brighten our apartment. I'd been



This March 2020 photo shows some of Molly Sprayregen's plants on her windowsill in Chicago, Ill.

**Associated Press**



This May 2019 photo shows Molly Sprayregen gazing at one of her new house plants in Chicago, Ill., which she named Dylan.

**Associated Press**

sprucing up the place with flowers, but had grown tired of spending money on something that would die within days or weeks.

I had no idea how much joy the plants would bring me, or how much fun I would have learning to care for them.

Now, every morning at a time when I might usually be kissing my fiancée goodbye as she heads off to school, I amble over to where Dylan sits on the windowsill and smile at her buds, which seem to have doubled in size each day. These new ones are a bright, bold green.

My plants help satisfy a dog-size hole in my heart. Of course, they don't return love the way a dog would, and I promise I am fully aware they are not sentient beings. But they do make the apartment feel brighter, warmer and cozier. They need me, and that feels good.

The first thing we did when we brought the plants home was name them. We

did it to be silly, yes, but it also felt instinctual. We had spent an entire weekend carefully selecting them from two different stores, and we hoped to keep them in our lives for many years.

Naming something, of course, breeds connection. I began to greet them when I came home, and I started speaking to them like they were more pet than plant. I have purchased spray bottles and plant food and a watering can and newer, prettier pots because my plants, of course, deserve the best.

Plant parenting, it turns out, is no easy task. Though they are indeed difficult to kill, it takes effort to keep them looking bright, shiny and healthy. I am still learning to care for them, but especially now, I love the work of doing so. It brings comfort, consistency.

Early in our plant parenthood, we left town for the weekend. When we got home, we encountered disaster. Dylan was a mess. Al-

most all her shiny red-green leaves were browned, crumpled and scattered across the floor. A few still hung limply from her now-muted green stem. The rest of our houseplants were fine, but I was convinced she was a goner. Still, I grabbed the watering can and sprang into action. I gave her as much water as I could without drowning her. I placed my phone beside her and blasted music just in case that could help. I prayed she liked Taylor Swift.

The next morning, Dylan looked better. Her stem stood straighter and her remaining leaves had unfolded. Within days, little buds grew where the leaves had been lost. I couldn't believe it. She was going to make it. Dylan has never looked quite the same since that weekend. Her frame has always looked a little barer. But now, it seems, just when we need her to most, she is ready to grow again. Right now, it's the sprouting of new leaves. □